

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO LOUIS MINCARELLI

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Louis Mincarelli for his long-time service to the Norriton Fire Engine Company and surrounding communities.

Mr. Mincarelli has been a member of the Norriton Fire Engine Company since 1976. He has served tirelessly on the banquet, by-laws, and legislative committees and was instrumental in raising the funding necessary to simultaneously purchase two new fire trucks. In 1995, he was awarded Life Membership for his service and sacrifice to the Company. Additionally, Mr. Mincarelli held the position of president of the Norriton Fire Engine Company for 15 years from 1979 to 1994.

For 34 years, Mr. Mincarelli also served his country as a First Sergeant in the United States Army. As an honored veteran, he takes pride in continuing to serve the citizens of East Norriton Township and surrounding communities.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring Mr. Louis Mincarelli for his exemplary and dedicated service to the Norriton Fire Engine Company and the East Norriton Township area. His commitment and energy to make his community a better place is an example for all citizens to follow.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FINANCIAL SECURITY ACCOUNTS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 2007

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Mr. CRENSHAW. Madam Speaker, today, along with several of my colleagues, I introduced the Financial Security Accounts for Individuals with Disabilities Act of 2007. As we know, the federal government gives American families a helping hand in saving for the future. Accounts with special tax advantages help people save for college, retirement, and other life events. But people with disabilities don't always have the same expectations for the future.

Individuals with disabilities may have very different needs and concerns for their long-term care. However, no matter how different the needs or the financial demands that face a family, all parents have a common interest—to ensure the financial security of their children. Although several savings tools exist for all families, increased costs for care, long-term security, more flexibility, and the desire to foster greater independence for children with disabilities warrant the establishment of a new savings instrument.

Many of you know about typical tax-deferred savings plans—such as a “529” and college tuition plans. These savings tools, which are available to all Americans, can't help a family with a child who may not go to college. Yet, one could argue that the need for savings and planning for the future is even greater for a child with a disability because he or she will likely be less able to earn a self-supporting income. And may require continued expenditures on medical treatment or adaptive equipment.

Without a new savings tool, parents of children with disabilities must choose between turning down the advantages of savings plans available to others or risk a hefty penalty if their child cannot use the funds according to the account restrictions.

The Financial Security Accounts for Individuals with Disabilities (FSAID) Act of 2007 will provide families of people with physical, cognitive, or developmental disabilities access to the savings tools that everyone else enjoys. Individuals with disabilities, or their families, could create a Financial Security Account (FSA) that accrues tax-free interest during the life of the beneficiary. The FSA will help families of individuals with disabilities to pay for a variety of current and long-term essential expenses including medical care, community based support services, education, employment training and support, and assistive technology. As adults, beneficiaries can also use these accounts to pay for housing and transportation needs.

FSAs differ from existing savings tools by providing much needed flexibility for families and beneficiaries:

Accounts can be established as easily as a typical savings account, without overburdening paperwork, administrative fees, or on-going legal fees;

Beneficiaries are allowed to control their own financial destinies; and if they are unable to serve in this capacity, parents, guardians or other designees can serve in this capacity;

Qualified expenses under the FSAID are purposefully broad to accommodate the greater needs of people with disabilities and the financial demands of their individual care plan;

Qualified expenses are not limited to adulthood or retirement age so resources can be used whenever they are needed;

The flexibility in expenses also allows families to save with confidence even though they cannot always predict how independent their children will become;

A family who saves money in a traditional account for a child who becomes disabled later in life can roll over the funds into an FSA without penalty; and

Unlike some savings instruments, FSA would be created and regulated on a federal level so any eligible individual in the United States would have access to this savings tool.

The Financial Security Accounts for Individuals with Disabilities Act of 2007 will give families of people with disabilities the ability to save for their children's futures just like other American families. Today, we are taking the

first step toward that realization by giving all American families the tools they need to provide for their families—no matter what their specialized needs might be.

A new approach to savings for these families—one that fosters ownership, self-control and flexibility—is needed today. I urge my colleagues to support this innovative approach to saving for the long-term, specialized needs of children with disabilities.

FSAs will bring families the much needed peace of mind by giving them the tools to provide for their children and helping ensure that children with disabilities are able to live life to the fullest and be as productive as possible.

Our legislation offers hope to families to provide resources that are life-enhancing and meaningful and the control necessary to ensure that their loved ones obtain essential services. I urge my colleagues to support the Financial Security Accounts for Individuals with Disabilities Act of 2007.

IN HONOR OF ARABY COLTON

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Araby Colton, a great lady who passed away recently at the age of 95. Araby was a passionate activist of uncompromising principles throughout her life.

Araby and her husband, Vie, founded the Canadian-American Wolf Defenders, which was instrumental in stopping a wolf hunt in Canada. She was a member of the Monterey County Peace Coalition, the World Society for the Protection of Animals, and a valued member of the Alaska Wildlife Alliance. She raised Arabian horses and a wolf-dog. Her children inherited her love of animals.

During consideration of the 1972 Endangered Species Act, testimony was entered on the subject of aerial wolf hunting in Alaska. Araby's passionate “Letter to Wolf Defenders” from her HOWL newsletter detailing the horrors of such hunting practices was read before the Subcommittee on Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation in their hearings on predatory mammals and endangered species.

Throughout the 90's, she wrote “Your World and Mine,” a newspaper column for the Carmel Valley Sun and other local newspapers. Her articles reported on the environment, animals, politics and book reviews. She kept up with current events, and was writing a letter to the editor on global warming when she passed away.

In her later years, Araby and some friends formed a confab they called “The Coffeehouse.” They named their group in memory of the American rebels that met in coffeehouses in the 1770's to discuss separation from a tyrannical government. “The Coffeehouse” members discussed the great issues of the day.

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Madam Speaker, the life of Araby Colton was full of joy and purpose. She cared about the world around her and worked tirelessly to make it a better place, not just for humans, but for all creatures. She would be delighted to think that she was a thorn in the sides of politicians, but I have only respect and admiration for a lady with such deep convictions. I know I speak for the whole House in extending condolences to her family. Araby will be greatly missed.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF H.R. 1585, NATIONAL DEFENSE
AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FIS-
CAL YEAR 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank Congressman ALTMIRE for offering this amendment and also want to thank Chairman MILLER for his support. Over the past two Congresses I have introduced legislation very similar to the language we are now considering, and I am very hopeful that it will be included in today's bill.

For every soldier who is deployed overseas, there is a family back home faced with new and challenging hardships. The toll extends beyond emotional stress. From raising a child to managing household finances to day-to-day events, families have to find the time and resources to deal with the absence of a loved one.

Today's amendment offers a way to help ease this transition. The Altmire-Udall amendment would allow spouses, parents or children of military personnel to use Family and Medical Leave Act benefits for issues related directly to the deployment of a soldier. Current FMLA benefits allow individuals to take time off for the birth of a child or to care for a family member with a serious illness. The deployment of a soldier is no less of a crisis and certainly puts new demands on families. We should ensure that the FMLA benefits given in other circumstances are provided to our fighting families during their time of need.

The passage of this amendment and its inclusion in the final conference report will bring new relief to thousands of families across the nation, and it will demonstrate the thanks we owe our brave men and women serving overseas.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I missed rollcall vote Nos. 345 through 349 on May 15, 2007. I was down in my district attending the funeral of SSG Timothy P. Padgett.

I would have voted: rollcall vote No. 345, final passage on H.R. 634—American Veterans Disabled for Life Commemorative Coin Act, "aye"; rollcall vote No. 346, final passage on H.R. 692—Army Specialist Joseph P. Micks Federal Flag Code Amendment Act, "aye"; rollcall vote No. 347, final passage on

H.R. 916—John R. Justice Prosecutors and Defenders Incentive Act, "nay"; rollcall vote No. 348, final passage on H.R. 1700—COPS Improvement Act of 2007, "aye"; rollcall vote No. 349, final passage on H.R. 1773—Safe American Roads Act, "aye".

SMALL BUSINESS FAIRNESS IN
CONTRACTING ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 1873—the Small Business Fairness in Contracting Act.

The 10th Edition of Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary defines fairness as being: impartial, honest; free from self-interest, prejudice, or favoritism. For too long small businesses have been overlooked, short changed and under-funded. For the first time in over a decade this House voted on a bill to open the \$380 billion federal marketplace to small businesses across the country.

Mr. Chairman, this bill will not only bring about strong economic growth but also create jobs. This bill does that by: Ensuring that new regulations and databases are added to encourage and promote fairness in the use of small businesses in government contracting; increasing the overall national goal of using contracts with small businesses; and increasing the goal for contracts with disadvantaged and women-owned businesses. These changes are vital to small businesses all over this country.

For the past 6 years, the government has failed to meet its 23 percent small business contracting goal. This has cost small business \$10 billion in lost contracting opportunities.

In the 3rd district of Florida, small business owner Lisa Wolf of Wolf Technologies informed me that she faces many contracting problems and loss of business due to the bundling of small projects into large mega contracts. Ms. Wolf owns a geotechnical engineering firm and has gained a reputation for helping clients exceed their goals; she cannot effectively do this without small Federal contracts.

Entrepreneurs and small businesses like Lisa Wolf's are key players in the economy of Florida.

Florida has an estimated total of 1,837,800 small businesses and 29 percent of them are women-owned firms.

According to the Florida Small Business Development Center:

The stability and growth of Florida's economy depends largely on the vitality of our state's small businesses who are a diverse group of entrepreneurs and innovators. This large and growing group keeps the Florida economy productive.

This bill ensures that more Federal contracts are available to small firms like Lisa's and also increases the procurement opportunities for the small, disadvantaged and women-owned businesses.

Mr. Chairman, this bill is not only a great investment to my home State of Florida but most importantly to our nation's small businesses and I strongly support it.

TRIBUTE TO DESCHUTES COUNTY
SHERIFF LES STILES

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great American, a dedicated Oregonian, and a tremendous public servant: former Deschutes County Sheriff Les Stiles. Sheriff Stiles retired last month, and tomorrow night his many years of achievements on behalf of the residents of Central Oregon will be celebrated at a public event in Bend, OR. Sheriff Stiles dedicated his career to keeping the city of Bend and Deschutes County a safe and desirable place to live and visit. quit

Sheriff Stiles has always exuded an interest in public policy and making our communities better and safer. His commitment to our country dates back to his service with the U.S. Army where he was commissioned as a second lieutenant with the Corps of Engineers. Les also served with the U.S. Army Reserves as a captain in the infantry from 1968 until 1974. After serving in defense of the United States of America, Les turned toward educational pursuits that would provide him with the knowledge that, complemented with his life experience, would ultimately allow him to better serve the citizens of Oregon.

In 1974, Les received a bachelor's degree in English from Illinois State University. From there, he went on to earn a masters degree in public administration from the University of Northern Colorado. In 1982, Les focused exclusively on law enforcement and completed the grueling training session at the FBI National Academy's 128th session. Madam Speaker, this was not the end of the sheriff's commitment to education. Later in life he graduated from the National Sheriffs Institute and in 2005 he graduated from the FBI Executive Leadership Program. He spent 15 years teaching at Central Oregon Community College and was always willing to address a community group on a pending issue.

Madam Speaker, the city of Bend, OR, received great fortune when Les and his family moved to the beautiful central Oregon region after his training at the FBI Academy. During 25 years of law enforcement in central Oregon, Les served first as a patrolman, eventually as Bend's chief of police, and ultimately as the sheriff of Deschutes County. Sheriff Stiles has been a strong advocate in combating the scourge of methamphetamine and its devastating impact on communities across the country. Sheriff Stiles quickly recognized the significant harm and damage this terrible poison inflicts on families and communities and was a real leader in bringing the problems associated with methamphetamine use to the forefront and attention of the general public. He's been diligent in his efforts to get this deadly drug off the streets, a vocal proponent and promoter of prevention efforts, and tireless in his efforts to support and promote treatment programs for those in desperate need of help.

My colleagues, when Les Stiles took office as the sheriff of Deschutes County, he inherited quite a mess. His predecessor pled guilty

to Federal charges of embezzlement. Under Les's leadership, the county made great progress in correcting the problems of the past. Sheriff Stiles helped restore public trust and once again brought honor to the position of sheriff. He restored fiscal restraint and helped stabilize funding for a department that otherwise would have lost significant public services this past year.

Today I illustrate but a few of the tremendous successes Sheriff Stiles achieved over a long and distinguished career. I appreciate my colleagues joining me in thanking Sheriff Stiles for all he's done on behalf of the people of Deschutes County, the Second Congressional District and the great State of Oregon. I wish him and his wife, Carol, many good days ahead with their family, complete with many hours of good fishing for the sheriff.

RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CLERGY CONSULTATION SERVICE ON ABORTION

HON. LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 40th anniversary of the Clergy Consultation Service on Abortion on May 21st, 2007, and the many fine clergy women and men of the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice who continue this tradition of service. At the time the Clergy Service was founded, hundreds, if not thousands, of women died each year because of unsafe, illegal abortions. Many of the women suffering the health hazards of an illegal abortion were the most vulnerable, including women of color and low-income women.

The heroic clergy who came together to form the Clergy Consultation Service felt a moral responsibility to help women in need. The Clergy Service provided comfort, hope, and access to doctors who performed safe abortions and treated women with dignity and respect. Participating ministers and rabbis risked public censure and criminal prosecution to provide compassionate counseling and spiritual support to women with an unintended pregnancy. Today, the tradition of support for women has continued through the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice and the Clergy for Choice Network.

Over one million American women sought illegal abortions annually at the time the Clergy Consultation Service on Abortion was established. In 1965 alone, 17 percent of all pregnancy-related deaths were due to illegal abortions. The largest percentage of abortion deaths was among women ages 35–39 with five or six children.

In my home State of New York in 1967, the only legal reason for performing an abortion was to save the life of the woman. Senior minister of the Judson Memorial Church in New York City, Reverend Howard R. Moody, along with social justice activist Arlene Carmen, recognized that women needed reliable information on how and where to obtain safe, albeit illegal, abortions. With a small group of ministers and rabbis, Reverend Moody founded the Clergy Service. The New York Times ran the statement announcing the service.

"Confronted with a difficult decision and means of implementing it, women today are forced by ignorance, misinformation and desperation into courses of action that require humane concern on the part of religious leaders."

The statement continued:

"We believe that it is our pastoral responsibility and religious duty to give aid and assistance to all women with problem pregnancies. To that end we are establishing a Clergymen's Consultation Service on Abortion which will include referral to the best available medical advice and aid to women in need."

Following the announcement, the Clergy Service was inundated with calls and visitors from around the country seeking assistance. From its inception until 1970 the service grew from 26 ministers and rabbis in New York to 2,000 clergy in 25 States referring almost 100,000 women to doctors.

I commend Reverend Moody and the clergy men and women who joined the service over the years. Their selfless service is an inspiration to all who honor women as moral decision-makers and all who seek dignity and justice for women.

COMMEMORATING THE 66TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF CRETE

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 66th anniversary of the Battle of Crete, the historic battle that contributed to the Allies' victory of World War II.

Because of its strategic location as part of the lifeline to India and its proximity to both Palestine and Egypt, both the Allies and Nazis wanted Crete. At that time the British controlled the island.

On May 20, 1941, the Nazi invasion force, including thousands of German paratroopers and glider troops began landing on Crete. Hitler felt this was to be an easy victory, yet he is quoted to have said shortly after the invasion, "France fell in 8 days. Why is Crete free?"

During the 11-day invasion of Crete, more than 6,000 German troopers were listed as killed, wounded, or missing in action. The losses to the elite seventh parachute division marked the end of the German military's large-scale airborne operations.

This valiant fight by the Cretan people began in the first hour of the Nazi airborne invasion while other underground movements did not begin until a year or more after being invaded.

Young boys, old men, and women displayed breathtaking bravery in defending Crete. Because German soldiers were not accustomed to facing women in battle, they would tear the dress from the shoulders of suspected Cretan women to find bruises from the recoil of the rifle. The penalty was death. On July 28, 1941, The Times (London) reported that "five hundred Cretan women have been deported to Germany for taking part in the defense of their native island."

The German soldiers who invaded Crete also faced the heroic resistance of the clergy.

A priest leading his parishioners into battle was not what the Germans anticipated. At Paleochora, Father Stylianos Frantzeskis, hearing of the German airborne invasion, rushed to his church, sounded the bell, took his rifle and marched his volunteers toward Maleme.

This struggle became an example for all Europe to follow in defying German occupation and aggression.

The Cretans paid a heavy price for their valiant resistance to Nazi forces with thousands of civilians executed, starved, or imprisoned. The Germans burned and destroyed entire communities as a reprisal for the Cretan resistance movement. Yet this resistance lasted for 4 years.

The Battle of Crete changed history by delaying Hitler's plan to invade Russia. The invasion was delayed from April to June of 1941. The 2-month delay in the invasion made Hitler's forces face the Russian winter. The Russian snowstorms and the subzero temperatures eventually stalled the Nazi invasion before they could take Moscow or Leningrad. This was the beginning of the downfall of the Nazi reign of terror.

We must always remember and honor this significant battle and the heroic drive of the Cretan people. Democracy came from Greece, and the Cretan heroes exemplified the courage it takes to preserve it.

To honor these heroes, I have introduced H. Res. 148, which recognizes and appreciates the historical significance and the heroic human endeavor and sacrifice of the people of Crete during World War II and commends the PanCretan Association of America.

Today, the courage and fortitude of the Cretan people are seen in the members of the United Cretan Associations of New York which are located in Astoria, Queens.

I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the Cretans in the United States, Greece, and the diaspora.

HONORING ROGER AND DIANA SENECHAL

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Roger and Diana Senechal of Auburn, MA for their many years of dedicated community service and volunteerism.

Roger Senechal and Diana (Sullivan) Senechal dedicated their lives to religion at an early age. They met while volunteering their services for families in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and were married in 1978.

The Senechals moved to New Hampshire, where they continued their lives of service. Diana volunteered extensively and Roger served as the Executive Director for the American Cancer Society. After their son Gerald was born, Roger was received into the Episcopal Church and the family moved to Auburn, Massachusetts, where Roger became a priest at St. Thomas Episcopal Church.

Roger and Diana have contributed their time to countless organizations. Their record of volunteerism is astounding.

Roger has served the town of Auburn as President of the Auburn Clergy Association,

Treasurer of the Worcester City Computer Society, Bee School Director of the Worcester City Beekeepers Association, and Ride Director for the Seven Hills Wheelman. Roger was also involved with Auburn Youth and Family Services, serving on the Advisory Board, Board of Directors, as President-elect, and as President. While working with Auburn Youth and Family Services, Roger helped extend the services provided by the agency. He has also continued to work with the Episcopal Church, serving on the Episcopal Church Diocesan Evangelism Committee, as Dean of the Deanery, on the Bishops Standing Committee, Revisioning Committee, and the Diocesan Reconciliation Committee.

Diana has also been active in Auburn. She worked with Auburn Youth and Family Services as a tutor, mentor, and with the Peaceful Pals and the Family to Family Mentoring programs. She has also worked as a secretary for three churches and as the co-director for a vacation Bible School.

The Senechals have embarked together on many volunteer efforts. They have worked for the St. Thomas Episcopal Church through Auburn Youth and Family Services, which provides dinners for conflict resolution groups and the Auburn Comes Together program, along with providing funding for summer camps. They were involved with the Boy Scouts of America, Diana serving as a Den leader and Roger as a Merit Badge Counselor. They have also been involved in Habitat for Humanity and the Auburn Youth Peace Vigils.

Roger and Diana have worked tirelessly for the betterment of their community and have served their faith admirably. Their achievements must not go unrecognized, although they humbly assert, "God gets the credit." The Senechals have touched countless people and dedicated their lives in the service of others. Their altruism deserves to be honored.

Madam Speaker, I am sure the entire U.S. House of Representatives joins me in thanking Roger and Diana Senechal for their wonderful contributions to the community.

TRIBUTE TO MIKE ALLEN

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Mike Allen, the former President and CEO of the McAllen Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) for his exemplary leadership in fostering the economic growth of the City of McAllen in South Texas.

Mr. Allen was responsible for the management of the McAllen Foreign Trade Zone, one of the largest inland ports in the United States responsible for over one billion dollars worth in commerce annually. He is currently on the Board of Regents for South Texas College and chairman of the Texas Border Infrastructure Coalition (TBIC), which was formed to develop and advocate for solutions to economic development needs along the Texas-Mexico border.

Mr. Allen is an active member of the community. He is a member of numerous organizations such as the American Economic Development Council, Texas Border Infrastructure Coalition, Mexican Chamber of Com-

merce, American Chamber of Commerce, Reynosa Maquila Association, Texas Good Roads and Transportation Association, McAllen Citizens League, and Rio Grande Valley Chamber of Commerce. In addition, he has served as a member of the Texas Governor's Task Force on Management and Labor Relations for five years. Recently, he attended Presidential and Vice-Presidential briefings on the North American Free Trade Agreement and was actively involved in the Empowerment Zone designation process for the Rio Grande Valley. His vast knowledge of the economic development issues along the U.S.-Mexico border region has led to the continuous economic growth of my district. Mr. Allen has spent his life working to help better the lives of those in his community, and I commend him for his commitment to the economic development of South Texas and to improving our economic relations with Mexico.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize the dedication and commitment of Mike Allen to furthering economic development of the City of McAllen and to the South Texas border community in general.

LOCAL FOOD AND FARM ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, this year we have an opportunity to reform our nation's farm policies, and a fundamental element of my vision to do this is the Local Food and Farm Act. By increasing the availability of fresh foods in cities, schools, and underserved communities, my bill not only strengthens market opportunities for local farmers and ranchers, but it also protects the environment and gets healthy food into our communities.

This legislation, which I am introducing today with Reps. NANCY BOYDA, STEVE KAGEN, KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND, BOBBY RUSH, DONALD PAYNE, JAN SCHAKOWSKY, TOM ALLEN, strengthens and expands existing programs that support value-added agriculture and farmers markets, promote the availability and affordability of healthy and fresh foods, increase fruits and vegetables in school meals, and remove barriers that keep local farmers from selling products into schools. It also establishes a new program to provide innovative financing for the processing and distribution businesses that create local jobs and are best-suited to help innovative, small and midsized farmers and ranchers take advantage of local and regional markets.

Increasing the availability of healthy and fresh foods in our communities is critical to improving the overall health and food security of the United States. By growing and distributing some of these foods locally and regionally, we can create profitable markets for many small and midsized family farmers and ranchers, help to preserve farmland, and protect the environment with reduced transportation costs and more sustainable farming practices.

IN HONOR OF EUNICE LASTINGER MIXON

HON. JIM MARSHALL

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Mr. MARSHALL. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure I rise today to honor Eunice Lastinger Mixon for her continuing contributions to the City of Tift, Tift County and the State of Georgia. Those accomplishments will be celebrated today with the establishment of the Eunice Lastinger Mixon Scholarship at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College.

Mrs. Mixon is affectionately known by her friends and colleagues as "Miss Eunice" and has spent her life in service to others. She has been described as a "joiner" and her many hours of service in a wide range of organizations justifies that description.

In addition to the 30 years "Miss Eunice" spent teaching in the Tift County schools and helping her husband, Albert Mixon, run their farm, she also served with the Georgia Civil War Commission, including an appointment as chairman, served on the Board of Directors for the Tift County Library and was one of only a handful of non-attorneys to hold an appointment with the Georgia State Bar Association.

Ms. Eunice continues to make innumerable contributions to the community through her service on the Georgia Student Finance Commission, the Georgia Agrirama Foundation Board, the Democratic Party State Committee and the United Daughters of the Confederacy.

Miss Eunice's presence fills whatever room she enters or whatever group she joins. She cares deeply and passionately for others, particularly the least among us. Few Americans have provided a better example of service to others.

Madam Speaker, I am confident my colleagues will join me in recognizing the accomplishments of this great Georgian and great American.

HONORING RENOWNED JAZZ MUSICIAN ON HIS 94TH BIRTHDAY

HON. MICHAEL A. ARCURI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Mr. ARCURI. Madam Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to the extraordinary musical career of Al Gallodoro of Oneonta, New York, and take part in the celebration of his 94th birthday on June 23, 2007. A master of the saxophone and clarinet, Mr. Gallodoro has impressed audiences all over the world for decades.

Mr. Gallodoro began playing the clarinet at the age of 7 and entered the music business at the young age of 13. He spent the next 40 years of his career performing with a well-known jazz musician, Paul Whiteman, playing alto saxophone, clarinet, and bass clarinet. Mr. Gallodoro was also a soloist for live broadcasts, performing more on-air solos during his career than any other performer.

Mr. Gallodoro has traveled all over the world to perform, and holds the world's record for performing the Rhapsody in Blue, playing the piece over 10,000 times throughout the 1930s

and 1940s. Additionally, in 2005, Mr. Gallodoro received an Honorary Doctoral Degree from Hartwick College, which recognized a lifetime of extraordinary achievement in music performance and teaching.

After moving to Oneonta in 1981, he has become an active entertainer in our community. Mr. Gallodoro performs each month at Oneonta's very own live music venue, the Sego Café. He is notably one of only thirteen artists who began recording before 1940 that is actively recording today.

Mr. Gallodoro has undoubtedly made an unforgettable impact on the music community and will always be remembered for his invaluable contributions to the field of music. I do not doubt that his 94th birthday celebration at the Sego Café in Oneonta will be one to remember.

Madam Speaker, it is with great pride today that I celebrate the incredible accomplishments of Mr. Gallodoro and wish him a wonderful 94th birthday.

IN RECOGNITION OF ROBERT R.
RICE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert R. Rice, for his lifelong commitment to educating our youth and for sharing his many talents with our community.

Since his days with the United States Armed Service Forces Band, Robert has been graciously sharing his musical talent. In the Band, he played trumpet and sang lead vocals. After leaving the service, Robert dedicated himself to educating children and introducing them to the wonders of music. As a result of his commitment, thousands of children have cultivated an appreciation for music. Harding School has been the fortunate benefactor of Robert's musical talents for 25 years, culminating in his composition of "The Harding March."

Hardly one to hold back his love of music, Robert has also volunteered thousands of hours with community organizations and numerous churches.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Robert R. Rice for a life spent bringing the gift of music to the youth of Northeast Ohio. May all his students who have cultivated a love of music pass it along to future generations.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALBIO SIRE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Mr. SIRE. Madam Speaker, on May 16, 2007, I missed rollcall votes Nos. 350, 351, 352. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall 350, "yea" on rollcall 351, "yea" on rollcall 352, "no" on rollcall 353, "present" on rollcall 354, and "no" on rollcall 355.

IN PRAISE OF ARMY PFC DANIEL
COURNEYA

HON. TIMOTHY WALBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and praise Army PFC Daniel Courneya, a constituent of mine who died while serving his country in Iraq; PFC Courneya's convoy was ambushed in Iraq on May 12, 2007.

PFC Courneya of Vermontville was 19 years old. He grew up dreaming of serving in the military. Daniel grew up wishing to carry on the legacy of service to our great Nation which has run through his family. He grew up with the heart of a hero. Enlisting in the United States Army at 17 years old during his senior year of high school, his mother had to sign a waiver to allow her son to enlist.

As a student at Maple Valley High School, Daniel was well known and well respected. Daniel ran track at Maple Valley, played on the soccer team and played the clarinet in the school band.

In Vermontville, the members of the community hold parades to welcome home returning members of the military and have done so to honor PFC Courneya. What impresses me the most is the way the community has rallied around Daniel's family and provided caring support during this time of grieving.

My thoughts and prayers are with Daniel's family. I thank them for their beloved sons' dedicated service to the United States. May God be with them.

HONORING THE SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE OF MAYORS ON ITS
25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Southwest Conference of Mayors, SCM, on its 25th anniversary. Through dedicated and distinguished leadership, the Mayors' Conference continues to foster the improvement of local government, provide services to citizens, and enhance the overall quality of life for residents in southwest Cook County.

Since its inception in 1982, the Southwest Conference of Mayors has served as the regional council of governments, COG, in southwest Cook County. Currently, the Mayors' Conference has five standing committees, which focus on the areas of economic development, legislative advocacy, public works, transportation, and utilities. The committees strive to lower the costs of government, promote managerial expertise, coordinate experience and find solutions to problems of mutual concern, and develop a common voice on municipal concerns.

Today, the Southwest Conference of Mayors encompasses 21 municipalities that include: the village of Alsip; the village of Bedford Park; the city of Blue Island; the village of Bridgeview; the city of Burbank; the village of Chicago Ridge; the village of Crestwood; the village of Evergreen Park; the city of Hickory Hills; the city of Hometown; the village of Justice; the village of Lemont; the village of Merrionette Park; the village of Oak Lawn; the village of Orland Hills; the village of Orland Park; the city of Palos Heights; the city of Palos Hills; the village of Palos Park; the village of Willow Springs; and the village of Worth.

Given the outstanding service and direction of the Southwest Conference of Mayors, I am especially privileged to acknowledge the founding and current SCM President, Mayor Jerry Bennett of Palos Hills; SCM vice president, Mayor Gene Siegel of Chicago Ridge; SCM vice president, Mayor Jim Sexton of Evergreen Park; and SCM treasurer, Mayor Bob Straz of Palos Heights. The hard work, insight, and leadership of these mayors ensure the future success of the Mayors' Conference and its positive impact on southwest Cook County.

The contributions made by the Southwest Conference of Mayors to the citizens of southwest Cook County are extraordinary. Today, I am pleased to recognize the organization's current and past leadership, member villages and cities, staff members, and all those who make the activities of the Mayors' Conference possible. As we celebrate this 25-year milestone, I look forward to continuing to work with SCM leaders to serve our communities and improve the lives of all area residents.

IN SUPPORT OF ONCOLOGY
NURSES

HON. MICHAEL R. McNULTY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Mr. McNULTY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the important and essential role that oncology nurses play in providing quality cancer care and to recognize May as Oncology Nursing Month.

Oncology nurses are the health professionals involved in the administration and monitoring of chemotherapy and managing the associated side-effects patients may experience. Every day oncology nurses see the pain and suffering caused by cancer and understand the physical, emotional and financial challenges that people with cancer face throughout their diagnosis and treatment.

Since 1975, the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) has been dedicated to excellence in patient care, teaching, research, administration and education in the field of oncology. The Society's mission is to promote excellence in oncology nursing and quality cancer care. I am pleased that ONS has 13 chapters throughout New York State which support oncology nurses in their efforts to provide high quality cancer care to patients and their families.

I urge my colleagues to support ONS in its important endeavors and to recognize the oncology nurses in their communities for all they do for people with cancer.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1585, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. THOMAS H. ALLEN

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Chairman, the amendment I offer today seeks to bring hope from tragedy. CAP Patrick Damon, who lived in Falmouth, ME, with his wife and two children, was a loyal public servant, both in State government and in the Maine National Guard.

In early 2006, Captain Damon was deployed with the Maine Guard's 240th Engineer Group to Afghanistan. On June 15 of that year, Patrick collapsed in his bunk after a run. Initial reports were that he died of a heart attack, even though he had no previous or family history of heart problems.

Captain Damon's mother, Barbara Damon-Day, has been persistent in seeking to get more information from the Army about the cause of her son's death. The Army lists the death as "sudden unexpected," and the exact cause remains inconclusive.

Based on her own investigation, Ms. Damon-Day believes her son's death was brought about by an adverse reaction to multiple vaccinations in a 24-hour period. Her investigation has revealed a lack of clarity in the Defense Department's guidelines and regulations on administering multiple vaccinations in a 24-hour period.

My amendment seeks to focus needed attention on this issue. It requires the Defense Department to report to Congress on its policies on administering and evaluating multiple vaccinations within a 24-hour period to members of the Armed Forces, including the Guard and Reserve. It requires information on whether the department's policies conform to the regulations and guidelines of federal health agencies.

The amendment also requests data on the number of deaths that have been investigated for vaccines-related causes, and information on how medical records are shared with the Adjutant General of the states.

Finally, the amendment requires the Department to perform a study on the safety and effectiveness of administering multiple vaccines with a 24-hour period to service personnel.

Since her son's death in June 2006, Mrs. Damon-Day has worked tirelessly to improve the Defense Department's medical screening of Armed Forces prior to their deployment overseas. The Maine Legislature is currently considering legislation to create a commission to improve medical screening of Maine Guard personnel before they go overseas.

Barbara Damon-Day has honored her son's memory by making it her mission to improve the health screenings given our military, and to improve the information they receive, before they leave to serve on our behalf in Afghanistan, Iraq and around the globe. We owe her our gratitude for her efforts and our support to help advance her cause. I hope that my amendment can play a part in that mission.

I urge support for the Allen amendment.

TRIBUTE TO THE OLATHE NORTHWEST HIGH SCHOOL RAVONICS REVOLUTION ROBOTICS TEAM UPON THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE 'FIRST ROBOTICS' NATIONAL COMPETITION

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to have this opportunity today to recognize the Ravonics Revolution robotics team from Olathe Northwest High School in Olathe, KS. The Ravonics Revolution team was one of over 1,100 schools across the country to participate in the 2007 FIRST Robotics competition, and were so successful that they were named Midwest Regional Champions.

FIRST Robotics, which was founded by Dean Kamen, the inventor of the Segway, is creating programs where kids can compete in sports-like environments, using math/engineering/technology/science skills rather than traditional athletic skills. The organization's vision is: "To create a world where science and technology are celebrated . . . where young people dream of becoming science and technology heroes."

Olathe Northwest High School formed their FIRST Robotics team two years ago and has been led by Sue Rippe, a Kansas Teacher of the Year in 2000. Sue and her husband, Cliff, have dedicated themselves to this program, providing guidance and support, but the kids are the real leaders of the team. They appointed a CEO, COO, CIO, CFO and other leaders within their group to divide responsibilities.

The team raised their own money to attend competition—more than \$38,000 this year—and obtained sponsorships from over 25 companies and individuals. And, their hard work and dedication has not gone unnoticed. In addition to winning their regional championship in Chicago, IL, earlier this year, they won other awards in entrepreneurship, website design, video production and safety. They were further recognized at the championship event in Atlanta, GA, with the Autodesk Visualization Award for Best Lighting (CG Animation).

Success isn't enough for them, however, which is why they will be hosting a robot scrimmage this summer for all area teams to encourage more students and schools to join the FIRST Robotics league.

Thanks to their teacher, Sue Rippe, the leadership of the Olathe school district and the FIRST Robotics organization, these students are able to focus on subjects they enjoy and on what they're good at. The program not only allows kids to be surrounded with teachers and classes that help to build on their strengths, but it also brings together kids with like interests so that they can learn from each other and develop their leadership and teamwork skills.

A very wise man once said that the really fundamental debts, like the ones that students owe to their teachers and parents, can't be paid back. They are too big for that. They can only be paid forward to those who will come after us. I know that each of these students

will find a way to "pay forward" the debt they owe by using their amazing talents to help explore worlds and ideas we never thought possible.

Madam Speaker, the Ravonics Revolution team at Olathe Northwest High School is an example of what happens when students work together to create a highly talented, focused team and seek to achieve a goal greater than themselves. I join the residents of the entire Third Congressional District of Kansas in applauding the Olathe Northwest High School Ravonics Revolution team for their success in the 2007 FIRST Robotics competition and look forward to their continued success in all future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE EAST END NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the East End Neighborhood House, EENH, whose leaders, staff and volunteers have uplifted and energized all aspects of Cleveland's urban neighborhoods for 100 years.

In 1907, Miss Hedwig Kosbab formed the EENH in her mother's home as a place that offered sewing classes for immigrant women. As the classes quickly began expanding to include others, the location of EENH changed several times but found its final home on the Van Sweringen estate in 1916.

Beyond providing services to residents on an individual level and six major programs for those young and old, the EENH nurtures community pride and identity while assisting individuals in uniting to identify and resolve its issues collectively. As public needs change, EENH redirects its efforts to focus on the eroding areas of community influence and life such as church, family and schools. Their efforts and services help to maintain stability in those areas and provide the lacking influence that is necessary for neighborhood prosperity, especially for children. One program provided by the EENH is the Cleveland Foster Grandparent Program, which brings neighborhood seniors and youth together. The unification of these two generations allows elders to continue to contribute by leading and sharing wisdom with the young people of the community, while providing the youth with the support and guidance that they need to become active members of the community as well.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of the volunteers, staff and leaders, past and present, of the East End Neighborhood House. Their collective dedication, vision, volunteerism and work on behalf of all residents has served to preserve the historic integrity and pride of the neighborhood, promote community accord and maintain a healthy sense of neighborhood unity for residents, young and old.

TRIBUTE TO THE RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE DURANGO HIGH SCHOOL AEROSPACE DESIGN TEAM

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I rise today in order to congratulate the Durango High School Aerospace Design Team for their recent selection as finalists in the International Space Settlement Design Competition. As one of only eight teams chosen worldwide—and only three from the United States—the Durango High School team represents the best that our public education system has to offer.

The International Space Settlement Design Competition is a serious endeavor, incorporating elements of engineering, logistics, creativity, business sense, and scientific acumen into a grand proposal where the competitors design a future habitat for humans on another planetary body. Students are held to rigorous standards; scientific concepts must be realistic extensions of current technologies and proposals are expected to provide budgetary details as well as specificities on how humans would live in the proposed settlement. The winning results are proposals that one would expect to see decades in the future, and are judged by engineers with expertise in the relevant fields.

As chairman of the Space and Aeronautics Subcommittee of the House Science and Technology Committee and a co-chair of the House Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education Caucus, I have a deep appreciation of what the Durango team has accomplished. I have long advocated the inclusion of a rigorous science program in our public education system and I applaud the results of Durango High School's emphasis on science education. Their success is a consequence of their strong education in the hard sciences and I am sure that these students will help ensure a better future for our Nation.

The Durango High School Aerospace Design Team will soon be competing against the rest of the finalists at the NASA Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the team on its success so far and to wish them the best of luck in the next and final leg of the competition.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I missed rollcall vote Nos. 350 through 366 on May 16, 2007. I was down in my district attending the funeral of Staff Sgt. Timothy P. Padgett.

I would have voted:

Rollcall vote No. 350, Motion to Adjourn, "aye"; rollcall vote No. 351, Previous Question on Rule for H.R. 1585—National Defense Authorization Act for FY '08, "nay"; rollcall vote

No. 352, Rule providing for H.R. 1585—National Defense Authorization Act for FY '08, "nay"; rollcall vote No. 353, Motion to Adjourn, "aye"; rollcall vote No. 354, Quorum Call, "present"; rollcall vote No. 355, Motion to Rise, "aye"; rollcall vote No. 356, Quorum Call, "present"; rollcall vote No. 357, Motion to Rise, "aye"; rollcall vote No. 358, Quorum Call, "present"; rollcall vote No. 359, Motion to Rise, "aye"; rollcall vote No. 360, Quorum Call, "present"; rollcall vote No. 361, Motion to Rise, "aye"; rollcall vote No. 362, Quorum Call, "present"; rollcall vote No. 363, Motion to Rise, "aye"; rollcall vote No. 364, Andrews Amendment to Defense Authorization to prevent funds authorized in the bill for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan from being obligated or expended to plan a contingency operation in Iran, "nay"; rollcall vote No. 365, DeFazio Amendment to Defense Authorization to clarify that no previously enacted law authorizes military action against Iran, "nay"; rollcall vote No. 366, Woolsey Amendment to Defense Authorization to require the Secretary of Defense to issue a report on the continued use, need, relevance, and cost of weapons systems designed to fight the Cold War and the former Soviet Union, "nay".

INTRODUCING THE PARENTAL CONSENT ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Parental Consent Act. This bill forbids Federal funds from being used for any universal or mandatory mental health screening of students without the express, written, voluntary, informed consent of their parents or legal guardian. This bill protects the fundamental right of parents to direct and control the upbringing and education of their children.

The New Freedom Commission on Mental Health has recommended that the Federal and State governments work toward the implementation of a comprehensive system of mental health screening for all Americans. The commission recommends that universal or mandatory mental health screening first be implemented in public schools as a prelude to expanding it to the general public. However, neither the commission's report nor any related mental health screening proposal requires parental consent before a child is subjected to mental health screening. Federally-funded universal or mandatory mental health screening in schools without parental consent could lead to labeling more children as "ADD" or "hyperactive" and thus force more children to take psychotropic drugs, such as Ritalin, against their parents' wishes.

Already, too many children are suffering from being prescribed psychotropic drugs for nothing more than children's typical rambunctious behavior. According to Medco Health Solutions, more than 2.2 million children are receiving more than one psychotropic drug at one time. In fact, according to Medco Trends, in 2003, total spending on psychiatric drugs for children exceeded spending on antibiotics or asthma medication.

Many children have suffered harmful side effects from using psychotropic drugs. Some

of the possible side effects include mania, violence, dependence, and weight gain. Yet, parents are already being threatened with child abuse charges if they resist efforts to drug their children. Imagine how much easier it will be to drug children against their parents' wishes if a Federally-funded mental health screener makes the recommendation.

Universal or mandatory mental health screening could also provide a justification for stigmatizing children from families that support traditional values. Even the authors of mental health diagnosis manuals admit that mental health diagnoses are subjective and based on social constructions. Therefore, it is all too easy for a psychiatrist to label a person's disagreement with the psychiatrist's political beliefs a mental disorder. For example, a Federally-funded school violence prevention program lists "intolerance" as a mental problem that may lead to school violence. Because "intolerance" is often a code word for believing in traditional values, children who share their parents' values could be labeled as having mental problems and a risk of causing violence. If the mandatory mental health screening program applies to adults, everyone who believes in traditional values could have his or her beliefs stigmatized as a sign of a mental disorder. Taxpayer dollars should not support programs that may label those who adhere to traditional values as having a "mental disorder."

Madam Speaker, universal or mandatory mental health screening threatens to undermine parents' right to raise their children as the parents see fit. Forced mental health screening could also endanger the health of children by leading to more children being improperly placed on psychotropic drugs, such as Ritalin, or stigmatized as "mentally ill" or a risk of causing violence because they adhere to traditional values. Congress has a responsibility to the Nation's parents and children to stop this from happening. I, therefore, urge my colleagues to cosponsor the Parental Consent Act.

HONORING THE NATURE CONSERVANCY OF ILLINOIS ON THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RAY LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to voice congratulations to The Nature Conservancy of Illinois in honor of its 50th Anniversary, and for the outstanding conservation work it has accomplished in Illinois. Since its establishment in 1957, The Nature Conservancy of Illinois has acquired, restored and preserved nearly 80,000 acres of natural lands at 120 sites throughout the entire State for the benefit of Illinois citizens.

The Nature Conservancy is a leading conservation organization, with more than 35,000 members in the State of Illinois and nearly one million members around the world working to protect ecologically important lands and waters for nature and people. For the past 50 years The Nature Conservancy in Illinois has been an effective, innovative partner in conservation with local, State, and Federal public land management agencies, other conservation not for profit organizations, corporations,

foundations and individual private landowners to create science-based conservation solutions that benefit nature and enhance the well being of people who depend on vital natural resources for their lives and livelihoods.

The Nature Conservancy works to improve river life, water quality and restore aquatic ecosystems through projects along the Illinois River including the preserves at Emiquon and Spunky Bottoms, the Cache River in Southern Illinois and the Mackinaw River in central Illinois. By using the best available science, The Nature Conservancy works to conserve our grasslands, prairies, forests at places like Kankakee Sands, Indian Boundary Prairies, Nachusa Grasslands, Chinquapin, and the Illinois Ozarks.

The Nature Conservancy is a founding member of Chicago Wilderness, a consortium of more than 200 public and private organizations working together to protect, restore, study and manage the natural ecosystems of the Chicago region, contribute to the conservation of global biodiversity, and enrich local residents' quality of life. In addition, The Nature Conservancy has spearheaded and supported various state policy initiatives that made meaningful contributions to Illinois natural resource management including public funding initiatives, and the Volunteer Stewardship Network to help public and private landowners manage their lands by removing invasive species, collecting native seeds, conducting prescribed burns, reducing pollution and managing precious parcels of land and waterways, and assisting with environmental youth education programs.

The Nature Conservancy's Board of Trustees and staff use a non-confrontational and collaborative approach to their work with all sectors of society to achieve meaningful conservation results in Illinois. That is why The Nature Conservancy is a leader in raising awareness of the benefits of nature, conservation and sound environmental practices among Illinois communities, elected officials, and the public at large.

I am proud to recognize the contributions The Nature Conservancy has made to significantly improve Illinois landscape and waterways, and congratulate The Nature Conservancy, Illinois Chapter, for its 50 years of conservation work in the State and applaud their efforts across the United States and around the globe to protect and conserve the biodiversity of the Earth.

IN HONOR OF JOSEPH PEZZINI

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, Members of the House, I rise today to honor Mr. Joseph Pezzini, a quiet and unassuming man who has become one of the seminal leaders in our Nation's fresh produce industry. The occasion for this recognition is Joe's departure from the chairmanship of the Salinas, California, based Grower Shipper Association. His work as chairman over the course of the past year, particularly around the issues of food safety, has contributed tremendously to the continued health and vitality of the American fresh produce industry.

Joe is a senior officer with Ocean Mist Farms, the leading U.S. producer and shipper of fresh artichokes. Along with a team of highly skilled and dedicated colleagues, Joe helps produce and ship high quality artichokes, lettuce, broccoli, spinach, and a variety of other specialty vegetable crops. All things that the federal government says we should eat more of. If you have ever eaten an artichoke, Joe likely had a hand in putting it on your plate. If you have never eaten an artichoke, then Joe would like to speak with you. But Joe's business acumen only begins his catalogue of achievements.

In 2006, Joe became president of the Grower Shipper Association, which serves as local and regional voice of the California Central Coast's large and dynamic produce industry. His focus was predominantly on local and regional issues. Then, last year on September 14, FDA advised consumers to avoid eating fresh spinach because it had been linked to an outbreak of E. coli. In a matter of minutes, Joe transformed himself from just a Salinas Valley business leader to the national face of the fresh produce industry. As a prominent spinach producer himself whose product remained unlinked to the outbreak and the Grower Shipper Association chairman, Joe became the natural spokesperson for the produce industry. Every major news outlet in the country wanted to speak with a Salinas Valley farmer. Amid all the commotion and frenzy, Joe remained the calm and credible voice, always speaking to realities of farming and his industry's concern for safety whether to a national news anchor or a local beat reporter. In the months since, Joe has taken a leading role in the produce industry's response to the crisis. He helped shape and now chairs the State of California's new leafy green food safety marketing agreement.

Joe's work has not only benefited the producers in my Central California district, but fresh produce farmers across the country. In recognition of his work, The Packer, a leading Produce Industry trade publication, recently honored Joe as its Produce Man of the Year. This honor is clearly well deserved.

Madam Speaker, please allow me to convey to Mr. Pezzini this body's gratitude for his vision, hard work and grace under fire on behalf of fresh produce consumers and producers everywhere.

IN RECOGNITION OF THOMAS P. CORRIGAN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Thomas P. Corrigan, the 2007 Fairview Park Citizen of the Year. Tom has been a tireless advocate for Fairview Park, and has devoted hundreds of volunteer hours in service to his neighbors.

Tom has been an active leader in the community for many years, and has been a fantastic influence in the lives of hundreds of Fairview Park youth. He has provided valuable leadership to St. Angela Cub Scout Pack 401, sponsored School to Work programs for Fairview Park High School and Ohio Boys Town, has coordinated numerous fundraising pro-

grams for Fairview Park students, and chaired levy campaigns to ensure that the schools have adequate resources to educate Fairview Park children.

Hardly a person to temper his enthusiasm for his community, Tom has also contributed significant time and resources to Fairview Park's economic prosperity and social growth. For many years Tom served as a board member for the Chamber of Commerce, and currently serves on the board of the Fairview Municipal Foundation. He has been active with the Business Advisory Council, and has been instrumental in the growth and success of Summerfest. He builds benches and playgrounds, chairs golf outings, and even plays the bagpipes.

His dedication to Northeastern Ohio has been an inspiration to all that know him. In addition to being an invaluable asset to Fairview Park, Tom is a doting father to Elisabeth, Rebecca, and Christopher, as well as a loving husband to Jeanne Ann.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Thomas P. Corrigan as the 2007 Fairview Park Citizen of the Year. His reliability, thoughtfulness and selflessness have been integral to the success of Fairview Park and the development of the city's vibrant personality. May Fairview Park continue to thrive from his efforts.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Ms. CARSON. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, May 16, 2007, I was unable to vote on rollcall Nos. 350 and 356. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on both.

TRIBUTE TO PRUE AND AMI ROSENTHAL

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Prue and Ami Rosenthal of Ann Arbor, MI. For 30 years the Rosentals have given much to the City of Ann Arbor and its community. Mr. and Mrs. Rosenthal are the 2007 recipients of the Washtenaw County Jewish Federation's Humanitarian Award, the highest honor the Jewish Federation bestows upon recipients.

The Rosentals were married in Massachusetts in 1962 and came to Ann Arbor in 1977. For these 30 years the duo of Prue and Ami have served Ann Arbor's Jewish community. Prue has spread her time and efforts among several organizations, such as a volunteer for the Beth Israel Congregation, Hadassah, the Jewish Federation, as well as serving as president of the Hebrew Day School. Prue is also a student of art history and has devoted herself to the University of Michigan (UM) Museum of Art, currently serving on the National Advisory Board and contributing her talent and knowledge to the creation of the new museum. She has also served on the board of

the University Musical Society for 7 years, 3 as the Chair.

Ami came to Ann Arbor after he was recruited from Harvard to direct the division of Pediatric Cardiology at the University of Michigan Medical Center. Since then he has established an international reputation for this remarkable program and created a network of 13 pediatric cardiology clinics throughout Michigan, using both his medical knowledge and his personal humor to help patients. He is now instrumentally involved in the development of the new Mott Children's hospital.

Prue and Ami have placed tremendous emphasis on the future of their community and together they helped found Save a Heart Foundation to raise funds for the Pediatric Congenital Heart Center, which has helped young people receive treatment. The Rosenthals have also provided significant funds to education programs at the Museum of Art and the Musical Society and they have a special interest in creating programs for children in Israel that encourage understanding and tolerance. Ami has also greatly impacted many young people at the collegiate level as chairman of the U-M Board of Student Publications and as a board member of the Hillel Foundation. In addition to all that the Rosenthals have done both professionally and philanthropically, they also have three sons and three grandchildren. Family is at the center of the Rosenthals' lives and they are intensely involved in their extended family as well.

I thank the Rosenthals for all that they have done for the Ann Arbor community. They serve as an example of all that individuals can do to help the greater good. This award is a tremendous accomplishment and it is certainly well deserved. For all that they have done and for the great love they have shown to Ann Arbor, I salute the Rosenthals and extend my appreciation to them for their great contributions to the people and institutions of their community.

TRIBUTE TO NILES TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 219 FINE ARTS AND PERFORMING ARTS PROGRAM

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Niles Township High School District 219, which is in the Ninth District of Illinois, for being named the best fine and performing arts program in the United States by the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. District 219 was singled out for its outstanding arts education programs on April 17 when it was presented with the 19th annual Kennedy Center Alliance for Arts Education Network and National School Boards Association Award at the National School Boards Association annual conference in San Francisco. Since 1989, only 38 school boards in 23 States have received this prestigious award, which recognizes achievements in arts education, from the Kennedy Center.

The Niles Township High School District 219 does not take arts education for granted. District 219 recognizes that it is fortunate to be able to dedicate \$2.1 million—or 4.5 percent—

to the art programs. Students are given the opportunity to take a range of classes and instruction and even drive the arts curriculum that is offered.

With such commitment to the arts by the school, faculty, and students, the arts programs continually receive honors and awards from noteworthy organizations. For example, Niles North High School, located in District 219, has been honored three times with the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences, NARAS, designation as a Grammy Signature School. District 219's theater programs have been invited twice by the American High School Theater Festival to perform at the Fringe Festival in Edinburgh, Scotland. And, numerous arts teachers have received "teacher of the year" honors.

Madam Speaker, I am so proud of District 219 because it understands the importance of bringing the wonders of the arts to a broader community, especially to our young adults. Niles Township High School District 219 is truly a model for arts education in Illinois and nationwide. Once again, I congratulate them on their latest achievement.

[From the Chicago Tribune, Apr. 25, 2007]

ONE FINE FINE-ARTS PROGRAM: SCHOOLS' DEDICATION PAYS OFF IN A NATIONAL AWARD FOR PROGRAMS AND IMMEASURABLE BENEFITS FOR STUDENTS

(By Lisa Black)

On any given day at Skokie's two public high schools, you might find a student stretching goat skin over a hand-crafted drum, or a math class learning geometric concepts through art mosaics.

A fashion class could be designing costumes for the schools' elaborate plays and musicals, while others listen to a renowned resident artist.

At Niles North and Niles West High Schools, the diverse collection of students celebrates the arts with a passion more in keeping with the reverence for football in West Texas.

At home, more than half the students speak a language other than English—led by Korean, Urdu, Assyrian, Spanish, Tagalog and Russian—yet when it comes to the arts, they share a language.

Now, the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., has singled out Niles Township High School District 219 and its school board for having the nation's best arts program, calling it "a model for arts education in Illinois and throughout the country."

The Kennedy Center presented the award, along with \$10,000, during the National School Boards Association's annual conference in San Francisco last week.

"It's an amazing accomplishment," said Lori Real, fine-arts teacher at Niles North, as her students painted on silk screens. She pointed out handcrafted African instruments, called dumbek drums, that her students also are working on.

"The arts provide that hands-on experience our students crave," Real said. "It's that hands-on experience of connecting with yourself. I think we're kind of a disconnected society now."

The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts is a public-private partnership that has given out the award for 19 years, basing its decision on a school district's quality and breadth of programs, student involvement and parent support, quality of teaching, and partnerships with the community.

Students filled the gymnasiums at both Skokie campuses Friday, cheering student artists, actors, musicians, dancers and their teachers.

"This is the first time I think we had a fine-arts assembly," said a delighted school board President Robert Silverman. "The kids in fine arts were on the gym floor being recognized. I think it made them feel terrific."

While athletes may rule the roost at other schools, in District 219, it's the arts students who get the most attention.

"It's nice to have a few of my jock friends come to see a production and really be blown away," said Clayton Fox, 18, of Skokie, president of the Niles North Thespian Troupe.

The arts have long been treasured in District 219, but in 2004 the school board decided to push the program to a higher level by creating a position of fine-arts director. Before that, the position combined the job of director for the English and Fine Arts Departments, officials said.

The 4,800-student district pulls from a robust tax base in Skokie, Lincolnwood, Morton Grove and Niles and devotes \$2.1 million—or about 4.5 percent of its annual instructional budget—to the arts. That's about \$442 per student, according to district figures. That compares to arts spending of 2 to 3 percent of school budgets statewide, according to a 2005 survey of school administrators.

In 2006 District 219 spent \$17,422 per pupil in operating expenses, ranking it third among all districts in statewide. High school districts spent an average \$12,365 per pupil, according to the Illinois State Board of Education.

Within the past two years the District 219 equipped both schools with \$250,000 fine-arts resource laboratories, each with 25 computers, keyboards, a teacher workstation and specialized art and music software. Before that, the district completed black box theaters at each school. They are small, unadorned rooms with dark floors and curtained walls that provide an intimate and versatile performing space.

Some District 219 teachers and students said they felt a bit guilty about the award, because it reminds them of the disparities between their school and the less affluent. Real, who taught in the Chicago Public Schools for 12 years, said District 219 participates in student exchange programs with inner-city schools.

The Kennedy Center judges noted that the depth of courses allows students to take art classes during all four years of high school and that many programs are student-driven, said Barbara Shepherd, director of the center's national partnerships division.

On a recent afternoon at Niles North, students in jeans and flip-flops plunked down on band room chairs, lifted their strung instruments and dove into a Brahms piece. Their no-nonsense orchestra director, Pam Hendrix, grabbed a late slip from a new arrival without missing a stroke of her baton.

The district has just added guitar lessons and digital piano to its music program, "filling a niche for students who don't fit into traditional band and choir," Hendrix said later. "The kids want to jam."

In the same classroom wing, Tim Ortmann led a drama class for students with physical and mental disabilities in the black box theater.

Ortmann, the school's theater director, led his students through sweeping motions and vocal exercises, prompting giggles when he asked students to say, then sing the phrase, "Open-Pit barbecue sauce."

"Do I have to come and push your tummy?" he joked when one student's song came out high-pitched and breathless.

Niles North and Niles West students present about eight musicals and plays at each campus per year, designing their own

costumes and sets. The theater program has twice been invited by the American High School Theatre Festival to perform at the Fringe Festival in Edinburgh, Scotland.

Students said they are thrilled, but not surprised, that their district won the Kennedy Center award.

Sari Weintraub, 17, a junior at Niles West who plays oboe, described her school's concerts as a multimedia affair, complete with audiovisual presentations and musicians who move around the auditorium for a "surround sound" effect.

"He likes to incorporate everything," she said of her band director.

"It keeps people from getting bored."

Fox was one of three students chosen as a member of the Niles North "director's circle" this year.

After being selected through an extensive audition, the circle members produce and perform the first play the following school year. In return, they serve the theater department, completing tasks and mentoring other students, throughout the rest of the year. "He will push you as far as you can possibly go," Fox said. "He wants you to be the best. And once you get there, no one will give you more respect than he will. It's tough love. He wants to see us succeed."

TRIBUTE TO RABBI JONATHAN JAFFE BERNHARD

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my good friend Rabbi Jonathan Jaffe Bernhard in recognition of his installation as Senior Rabbi of Adat Ari El. As a long-time member of the synagogue, I know firsthand of his excellent work and outstanding accomplishments, and have been the beneficiary of his ability to offer solace and comfort at difficult times.

Jonathan Bernhard was born in Great Neck, Long Island, NY. From age seven to fourteen, he lived with his parents in London and then they returned to make their home in Manhattan. His interest in Judaism was sparked by reading Elie Wiesel's book, "Night." While attending Haverford College, he majored in religious studies and he also worked on a Kibbutz. After receiving his BA in 1988, he traveled to Los Angeles to attend Brandeis-Bardein Summer Institute and then continued extensive studies at Yeshiva (Yeshivat Hamivtar) in Efrat on the West Bank.

Jonathan's experiences in Israel inspired him to become an observant Jew. He wanted to become a professor of religion when he moved back to the United States. While living in Boston, he rekindled his friendship with Laurie Jaffe who encouraged him to pursue the rabbinate. They met at Brandeis-Bardein Institute in California in 1988.

Upon completing his studies at the Jewish Theological Seminary, Rabbi Bernhard was ordained in 1996 and took a position at Adat Ari El. Adat Ari El is in the heart of my congressional district and was the first conservative synagogue in the San Fernando Valley. Rabbi Bernhard is at the spiritual center of the Congregation and deserves commendation for his dedication to Jewish principles, education and culture. He continues to create and maintain a wonderful sense of Jewish community by help-

ing provide an Early Childhood Center, Day School, Religious Schools, Adult Education and Sisterhood programs as well as Holiday services, daily Minyan services and the life cycle services (weddings, funerals, baby namings, bar/bat mitzvahs, unveilings.)

Jonathan and Laurie married in 1992 and they are proud parents of three sons, Nathaniel, Micah and Elijah.

I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting and honoring Rabbi Bernhard for his invaluable role at Adat Ari El and within the Jewish community, and wishing him our fervent hope for continued success.

IN RECOGNITION OF RICHARD BERNSTEIN, THE JEWISH COM- MUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL'S 2007 ACTIVIST OF THE YEAR

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Madam Speaker, I want to recognize the accomplishments of Richard Bernstein and congratulate him as he receives the Jewish Community Relations Council's Activist of the Year Award for 2007. His unparalleled dedication to upholding and defending the rights of the disabled is a priceless commodity to the citizens of the State of Michigan.

Mr. Bernstein has been an inspiration to many throughout his career. Blind since birth, he is a graduate of the University of Michigan and Northwestern University Law School and currently serves as an attorney with the Law Offices of Sam Bernstein in Farmington Hills. His tireless work ethic and advocacy for disabled rights and the public interest has ensured that the disabled have an equal footing with the entire community. His penchant for running marathons epitomizes his work ethic; he does not shy away from daunting tasks and knows how to finish them.

I am proud to have been able to work with Mr. Bernstein to help blind and dyslexic students to access textbooks and keep up with students that can read the printed word. After securing federal funding, Mr. Bernstein and I were able to work together with the Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic—Michigan Unit to provide blind and dyslexic students access to audio texts so that they can learn and succeed in school, providing them with the knowledge and skills to find jobs after graduation. This important work underscores Mr. Bernstein's commitment to helping the disabled achieve an equal footing in our society.

Madam Speaker, Richard Bernstein has been and will continue to be a pillar for our community. I congratulate him upon receiving this well-deserved award and look forward to working with him in the future as he continues to devote his work to bettering the lives of so many.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA OF ARMY SPECIALIST JOHN D. FLORES OF GUAM

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance and recognition of United States Army Specialist John D. Flores of Barrigada, Guam. Specialist Flores died on May 3, 2007, as a result to injuries sustained when his unit came under attack in Baghdad, Iraq. SPC Flores was 21 years old. He is the tenth son of Guam to make the ultimate sacrifice for his country in the ongoing war on terror. The loss of an outstanding soldier like Specialist Flores is grave for the entire Nation. But the pain of John's passing is most severely felt by Guam and its people—his beloved home and neighbors.

SPC John Flores was a fine soldier who, like many before him from Guam, served the United States and our community with selfless dedication. He answered our country's call to duty and he made the ultimate sacrifice in our defense.

John was not only a dedicated soldier, but also a kind and generous person, a devoted husband, and a loving father. He had been married to his wife Charlene for just over a year. They graduated together from George Washington High School in 2004. John was immensely proud of, and loved dearly, his daughter, Chloe. His family will always remember him being a young man who celebrated life to its fullest and one who possessed maturity beyond his years. His love for his family, his devotion to his island, and his dedication to his country and flag will always serve as an outstanding role model for and inspiration to his family, friends, and future generations of Guam soldiers.

I was deeply saddened to learn of Specialist Flores's passing, as I have been for all of the servicemembers from our island and communities across the United States who have given their lives in service to our country. I join the people of Guam and all Americans in offering my most sincere condolences and heartfelt prayers to SPC John Flores' family, friends, and fellow soldiers during this difficult time. In particular, on behalf of a grateful country, I extend my deepest sympathies to John's wife, Charlene, and his daughter, Chloe. Our country and our island owe Specialist Flores and his loved ones an unpayable debt of gratitude for the sacrifice they have made on our behalf.

John was an admirable son of Guam, a proud American soldier. He proved that he was willing and prepared to defend his country and his home island, no matter what the price. He lost his life in the noble effort to rebuild a nation in freedom so that others might some day know the joys of liberty and justice. And for that sacrifice, we are eternally grateful. God Bless John Flores, and God Bless our great country, the United States of America.

TRIBUTE TO JUSTICE JOSEPH
RATTIGAN

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise with sadness today to honor my good friend and respected mentor, Justice Joseph Rattigan, who passed away after a long illness on May 12, 2007, in Santa Rosa, California. He was 87 years old.

Joe Rattigan is a legend in Sonoma County and in California. During a long career as an activist, a civic leader, a State legislator, and a jurist, he earned respect from all whose lives he touched, whether political ally or rival. Known for his eloquence, wit, intelligence, and passion, this remarkable man always had time for people and their concerns. He mentored other lawyers and judges as well as generations of Democratic politicians. In fact, his counsel meant a great deal to me when he unexpectedly volunteered his support in my first congressional primary with a field of nine candidates. His endorsement—unsolicited, unequivocal and from the man widely respected as the dean of Sonoma County politics—instilled in me the confidence I needed to succeed.

Born in 1920, Joe grew up in politics in Washington, DC, where his father was a law partner with Senator O'Mahoney from Wyoming. He attended Catholic University and, after graduating in 1940, worked briefly for the Department of Agriculture before joining the Navy to fight in World War II. He served as an intelligence officer and then commanded a PT boat in the Pacific, earning a decoration for heroism in combat.

After the war, Joe enrolled in Stanford Law School, graduating in 1948. He was part of a post-war generation of young lawyers who settled in California at that time and made their mark on a booming State. He soon joined a Santa Rosa law firm and plunged into local affairs and Democratic politics. He served as president of the Sonoma County Bar Association, county chairman for Adlai Stevenson's 1956 Presidential bid, and a member of the Santa Rosa Board of Public Utilities.

Joe jumped into electoral politics on his own behalf in 1958. He became the youngest State senator in the county's history at age 38, as the Democrats took back the legislature and Edmund G. "Pat" Brown became governor, ushering in a new golden era for the California. He served two terms, authoring or co-authoring several key bills, including measures establishing medical care services for the elderly, a model for the Federal Medicare program, the Department of Rehabilitation, and the State university system. In 1960, his last minute maneuvering created Sonoma State College, later University, which is now an integral part of the county as well as of the State's education system.

During his time in the legislature and his subsequent 18 years as a justice on the Court of Appeal for Northern California, Joe fought for the oppressed. Having grown up in a segregated city, he was fiercely opposed to discrimination. He supported the controversial Rumsford Fair Housing Act which ended the

use of restrictive covenants in housing. He also carried the one-man, one-vote reapportionment measure that altered the way state senators were elected even at a personal cost. This measure split Sonoma County into two districts, causing Joe to lose his seat.

Principle always came before politics with Joe Rattigan. He fought against the death penalty, attempting to save convicted felon Caryl Chessman when he was a freshman senator. It is widely believed that his principled opposition cost him a seat on the State Supreme Court. During his time as an appellate justice, however, he continued to make a mark on California; for example, he supported separation of church and state (despite his Catholic upbringing), championed a first in the Nation requirement for cities and counties to adopt general plans, and wrote a decision overturning Black Panther Party leader Huey Newton's murder conviction, which was later upheld.

Joe is survived by Elizabeth (Betty), his wife of 65 years, whom he met in the second grade, by his six children—daughters Catharine Kalin and Anne Paine and sons Michael, Thomas, Patrick, and Timothy Rattigan—as well as 12 grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, this week Sonoma County residents mourn the passing of Joseph Rattigan. Whether people agreed with him or not—and many in the far more conservative Sonoma County of the 50s and 60s did not—he was respected for his integrity, his political acumen, his sharp legal mind, and a heart as big as the Golden State. In 1997, the State building in downtown Santa Rosa was named the Joseph Rattigan State Building. I would hope that those who pass who pass through its doors into the bright sunlit foyer will stop for a moment and consider the greatest legacy of Joseph Rattigan: a life that demonstrated that good government isn't only desirable, it is possible.

INTRODUCTION OF FOREIGN PIRACY RESOLUTION

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Mr. GOODLATTE. Madam Chairman, as co-chairman of the Congressional International Anti-Piracy Caucus, I rise today to introduce, along with my fellow co-chairman, Representative ADAM SCHIFF, this resolution calling on foreign governments to lead by example in the fight against copyright piracy.

Our Nation's Framers had the foresight to place language in our Constitution to protect creators' inventions and works. Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution lays the framework for all of our intellectual property laws. Because the United States has been the pioneer for intellectual property protections, it is no surprise that the copyright industries are so successful and are so crucial to our national economy. The U.S. copyright industries have created millions of high-skilled, high-paying U.S. jobs and have contributed billions to our economy.

However, widespread piracy is taking its toll on the copyright industries. Copyright piracy

results in billions of dollars in lost revenue for the U.S. copyright industries each year and even greater losses to the U.S. economy in terms of reduced job growth and exports. Much of the piracy these industries are facing is in foreign countries, and portions of this foreign piracy are attributable to unauthorized software use by government agencies, as well as the use of official government computers and networks to commit all types of copyright infringement.

While the United States is the world's leader in intellectual property protections, the problem does not stop at our borders. Piracy in today's economy is a global problem. We must encourage other countries to enact and enforce strong intellectual property laws in order to fully protect America's inventors and authors.

Foreign governments would do well to start by setting an example and denouncing piracy within their own agencies. One particularly disturbing trend is the growing willingness of many foreign governments to condone the use of, and even use, pirated materials. At its best, government sets the standards for the protection of rights. At its worst, government encourages and even participates in the breach of those rights.

Today, I am introducing this resolution to call on all foreign governments to publicly denounce pirated products. Specifically, this resolution calls on foreign governments to follow the example set by the United States to discourage software piracy by the government, and to prevent the use of government computers to facilitate other types of piracy. Specifically, our resolution calls on foreign governments (1) to stop using unauthorized software, (2) to enact usage policies for government computers and networks that will prevent all types of copyright piracy over their systems, and (3) to make these efforts to combat piracy in government public to their citizens.

It is my hope that this resolution will send a strong message to foreign governments to lead by example and set the standards regarding intellectual property protection for their countries.

I urge each of my colleagues to support this commonsense resolution.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Mr. SHAYS. Madam Speaker, on May 16 and 17, 2007, I was participating in the World Economic Forum in Amman, Jordan and, therefore, missed 14 recorded votes.

I take my voting responsibility very seriously. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on recorded vote number 364; "no" on recorded vote 365; "no" on recorded vote 366; "yes" on recorded vote number 367; "no" on recorded vote 368; "yes" on recorded vote 369; "yes" on recorded vote number 370; "no" on recorded vote 371; "yes" on recorded vote 372; "yes" on recorded vote number 373; "no" on recorded vote 374; "no" on recorded vote 375; "no" on recorded vote number 376; and "no" on recorded vote 377.

IN HONOR OF THE TREMENDOUS
PUBLIC SERVICE OF FRED
WINKLER

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the tremendous public service of Fred Winkler of Hillsdale, New Jersey. At 80 years old, he is the longest-serving volunteer in the Hillsdale Fire Department and he shows no signs of slowing down.

Fred Winkler joined the fire department about 60 years ago when he returned from his service in the Navy Air Corps during World War II. He helped to start their ambulance corps and served as the fire department's chief in 1956 and president in 1958. His extraordinary dedication to the Hillsdale Fire Department earned him the Firefighter of the Year award in 1982.

In addition to the time he devotes to the fire department, Fred Winkler is also committed to his role in other parts of his community. He helped to start a fishing program for young people through his involvement with Friends of the Pascack Brook. He is active with the veterans' community through his local American Legion. And, Fred Winkler spent 10 years helping to renovate the landmark Hillsdale Railroad Station.

About 10 years ago, the borough of Hillsdale honored Fred Winkler for his true sense of service to his community by naming a street after him. This coming Sunday, the Hillsdale Fire Department will honor him with a firehouse open house. It is a great privilege to join his proud neighbors in honoring the shining example of public service that is the life of Fred Winkler and I commend him for his dedication to his community.

RECOGNITION OF PATHWAYS TO POSITIVE AGING

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Pathways to Positive Aging, a collaborative project between the city of Fremont, California's Human Services Department and the Tri-City Elder Coalition. This exciting Robert Wood Johnson funded project is helping seniors and communities to make choices for a healthier future. This community plan enables all older adults living in the Tri-City area of Fremont, Newark and Union City, California to understand, choose and access culturally enriched affordable services and opportunities that enhance their quality of life.

The Tri-City Elder Coalition is comprised of over 60 organizations and individuals including health care and long-term care providers, community and government agencies, faith-based/cultural organizations, senior service organizations, universities, elected officials and older adults.

The city of Fremont and the Tri-City Elder Coalition have identified five initiatives that support the health, well-being and independ-

ence of older adults. These include increased access to older adult services, increasing and sustaining older adult mobility, increasing the capacity of community groups to serve all older adults, and fostering cross cultural and intergenerational exchange that create meaningful opportunities for older adults.

Pathways to Positive Aging will focus on older adults who are at increased risk of disability due to poverty, race, ethnicity, chronic illness or advanced age as well as older adults with physical or cognitive impairments who require long-term care and supportive services.

It takes a community to support successful aging. Pathways to Positive Aging is a community partnership focused on improving long-term care and supportive service systems to meet the current and future needs of older adults.

I applaud the city of Fremont Human Services Department and the Tri-City Elder Coalition for meeting the challenge to build a community that is safe and welcoming; one that respects diversity and values senior participation; a place where information is easily available for all seniors; where seniors can be actively involved and where cultures and generations come together to support one another.

Pathways to Positive Aging will bring awareness, acceptance and a call to action that will embrace the aging process for all Tri-City residents. I join the community in thanking the city of Fremont Human Services Department and the Tri-City Elder Coalition for their commitment and dedication to make a positive difference toward successful aging.

HONORING THE 17TH ANNUAL DC BLACK PRIDE CELEBRATION

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, Memorial Day Weekend, May 23–27, is the 17th Annual Black Pride celebration in Washington, DC.

DC Black Pride is an exciting 5-day event complete with dynamic workshops, receptions, cultural arts activities, small and large nightclub events that culminates in the world's oldest, most inclusive Black Pride Festival in the Washington Convention Center. Many consider DC's festival one of the world's pre-eminent Black Pride celebrations. The festival consistently draws more than 30,000 people to the Nation's Capital. Attendees come from every major urban area in the United States as well as Canada, the Caribbean, South Africa, Great Britain, France, Germany, and the Netherlands. The Black Pride Festival features activities for the entire family, including performances by national recording artists, 200 exhibition booths, book signings from noted writers, participation from national and local health organizations, and arts and crafts.

Black Lesbian and Gay Pride Day, Inc. (BLGPD), the celebration's organizing body, chose the theme "Black All Over: Liberty-Unity-Strength" to encourage the Black lesbian, gay, bisexual, and trans gender (LGBT) community to work together towards combating homophobia, promoting health and wellness, strengthening their community, and encouraging Black LGBT people everywhere to live their lives with pride.

Black Lesbian and Gay Pride Day, Inc., a non-profit organization with a volunteer Board of Directors, coordinates this annual event. BLGPD's 2007 Board consists of James W. Hawkins, President; Ray Daniels, Vice President; Janisha Gabriel, Secretary; Lisa Washington, Treasurer; and the following Members at Large: Donovan Anderson, Khalid Parker, Courtney Snowden, Sterling A. Washington, Shanika Whitehurst, DaJuan Xavier; and these Members Emeritus: Earl Fowlkes, Eric E. Richardson, Clarence J. Fluker, and Cheryl Dunn, who lead BLGPD in its mission to build knowledge of and to create greater pride in the Black LGBT community's diversity, while raising funds to ameliorate and prevent health problems in this community, especially HIV/AIDS.

I ask the House to join me in welcoming all attending the 17th annual DC Black Pride celebration in Washington, DC, and I take this opportunity to remind the celebrants that United States citizens who reside in Washington, DC, are taxed without full voting representation in Congress.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF PAUL JOSEPH BORDALLO

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Paul Joseph Bordallo, a leader whose service to Guam as a senator, a businessman, and as a community activist, leaves an indelible mark in the history of our island and will be remembered for many years to come. Paul passed away on May 12, 2007, leaving his wife, the former Arlene Perez Bias; his children, Penelope, Oliver, Renata, Jonathan, Paul, Alethea, and Rosalia; his grandchildren, and a large extended family, which includes myself. Paul was my brother-in-law, the younger brother of my late husband, Ricardo J. Bordallo, the sons of Balthazar J. Bordallo.

But Paul did not stand in the shadow of his father or brother. He cast a very long shadow of his own, in both the business and political arenas on Guam. Paul Bordallo was a statesman and a visionary in his own right and our island has lost a truly great man.

The impact of his ideals and accomplishments has been profound and lasting. Paul was proud of his Chamorro heritage and was a staunch proponent of indigenous civil, political, cultural, and land rights, but he did not clamor for attention to these issues. Where other activists sought action through protests and demonstrations, Paul instead worked diligently to address and secure these rights through the political process. He was a soft-spoken intellectual who relied on reason and logic to make his point.

As a member of the 11th and 12th Guam Legislatures, Paul authored the Chamorro Land Trust Act, which reserves public land for the use and benefit of Guam's indigenous people; the Guam Historic Preservation Act and the law making English and Chamorro the official languages of Guam. He co-authored the Guam Territorial Seashore Protection Act and the Ocean Shore and Territory Beach Access Act, mandating public access to all

beaches and shorelines. He co-authored legislation to establish the first Political Status Commission, which sought to address the still-unresolved issue of political self-determination for the people of Guam. Paul was a member of the Commission on Self-Determination, which crafted Guam's Draft Commonwealth Act, a proposed transition which was to culminate in a final political status for Guam. Paul was the author and major proponent of the provisions for the Chamorro only vote and a political relationship with the United States based on mutual consent. These issues remain highly controversial, even to this day, and although Paul played a pivotal role in advancing them, his insight and his wisdom won him the admiration and respect of many in our community.

As evidenced by his legislative agenda, Paul Bordallo's love for Guam's natural environment was visionary and uncompromising. In the 1970s, he was instrumental in the efforts which thwarted the Navy's plans to condemn land surrounding Sella and Cetti Bays, two of Guam's most scenic vistas and visitor attractions, for a new ammunition wharf. This ultimately resulted in the construction of the new ammunition wharf on Orote Peninsula, land already controlled by the Navy, and the release of the old ammunition wharf, on Cabras Island, to the civilian government for development of its ocean freight capacity. Although ahead of his time, Paul's opposition to the condemnation of additional land for military purposes paved the way for cooperative efforts between the federal government and the people of Guam to resolve land issues.

Paul served on the board of the Guam Memorial Hospital for 9 years, from 1961 to 1970, including three terms as board chairman. In the wake of Supertyphoon Karen, Paul served on the Small Business Administration's Disaster Loan Board from 1963 to 1966. Paul also served as the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Guam Economic Development Authority from 1996 to 1998. He was an advisor to the National Trust for Historic Preservation in Washington, DC, and a long-time member of the Democratic Party of Guam, the Guam Chamber of Commerce, and the Guam Visitors Bureau.

As class president, Paul graduated from Guam's George Washington High School in 1948. He attended St. Mary's College in Moraga, California, with a 4.0 grade average. He then transferred to Stanford University and, as a member of Phi Beta Kappa, graduated cum laude with degrees in economics and anthropology in 1952. He earned a master's in business administration and finance from Harvard University's School of Business in 1954. Upon returning to Guam, Paul went to work for Guam Savings and Loan Association, headed by Joseph Flores. He was drafted into the army in 1956 and served for 2 years. In 1959, he started his own business, Family Finance Company, Incorporated. An avid boater and fisherman, he also established Marianas Boats and Motors, Inc., to serve Guam's boating and fishing community. Both firms are still in business today.

Despite his failing health in recent years, Paul remained a pillar of strength and courage for the entire Bordallo family. I often turned to him for his wisdom and good judgment. We all will miss him dearly and we find solace in knowing that the people of Guam join us in mourning his passing and honoring his memory.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and so I missed rollcall vote No. 328 regarding "Holding a Secret Session." Had I been present, I would have voted "no".

IN RECOGNITION OF GLYNNA COLE

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Glynn Cole on the occasion of her reelection as American Legion Post Commander at Post 5 in Colorado Springs. The first woman ever to hold this office at Post 5, since it was founded in 1919, Mrs. Cole joined the Women's Army Corps in 1964.

Mrs. Cole has contributed a lifetime of honorable service to the Armed Forces. Assigned to the Pentagon at the start of her career, Mrs. Cole went on to work at the Draft Board in Stanton, Texas, the Army Reserves, and the Air Force Academy in Civilian Personnel until her retirement in 1995.

Like so many great Americans, Mrs. Cole has continued, in retirement, to make a positive contribution to society. She is an active member in several groups and organizations including the Worthy Matron Order of the Eastern Star and Daughters of the Nile, and was President of both the Auxiliary Aerie 3260 and Women's Army Corps Veterans Chapter. In 2004, she became Adjutant at the American Legion Post 5 and was first elected Post Commander in 2006. Mrs. Cole is both an asset to our Colorado Springs community and to our Nation, and I am honored to recognize her today.

REQUESTING A NAVAL ROTC PROGRAM AT UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to express my strong support for a Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps program at the University of Miami. The students at this prestigious university deserve the opportunity to engage in this tremendous program. Located in South Florida the university provides an ideal location to offer a quality program that can utilize many of the resources that are within close proximity. The success of Army and Air Force ROTC programs at the university are clear indicators of the interest and dedication the students have to serving our country in the Armed Services. A program at the University of Miami would be an incredible addition to the proud tradition of the Naval Reserve Officer Training Program, and so I request that my colleagues support this amendment.

COPS IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the bi-partisan passage of H.R. 1700, the COPS Improvement Act of 2007.

The COPS program has been one of the most successful law enforcement programs in our Nation's history. Created in 1994 as part of the "Clinton Crime Bill," it is often referred to as the 100,000 cops program. In fact, COPS has put almost 120,000 more officers on the street nationwide, 1,400 new officers in Minnesota, and 354 additional police officers and/or sheriff deputies in the 5th Congressional District which I serve.

With the passage of the COPS Improvement Act, an additional 151 officers will likely be hired in the 5th Congressional District over the next 6 years.

The COPS program was created as an incentive to law enforcement agencies to hire more officers. COPS provides that incentive by assuming 75 percent of an officer's salary for 3 years. Funded at over \$1 billion a year near the end of the Clinton Administration, the hiring portion of COPS has been zeroed out under President Bush.

According to a study by the non-partisan General Accounting Office (GAO), between 1998 and 2000, COPS grants were responsible for reducing crimes by about 200,000 to 225,000 crimes—one third of which were violent. In 1998, COPS grants were responsible for an 8 percent decrease in crimes—and a 13 percent drop in violent crimes.

Yet, President Bush and Republicans in Congress eliminated the hiring program last year, at the same time, violent crime spiked across the Nation.

Earlier this year, the Police Executive Research Forum, a prominent law enforcement association, released a report which found that violent crime rose by double digit percentages over the last two years. Among the cities surveyed, since 2005, 71 percent had an increase in homicides, 80 percent saw robberies rise and 67 percent reported an increase in aggravated assaults with guns.

Thankfully, under the leadership of Mayor R.T. Rybak, Minneapolis was not among those cities. In fact, Minneapolis has seen an 11 percent decline in violent crimes since the beginning of the year.

We want to keep those statistics headed downward and the way to do that is through the funding of successful hiring programs like COPS.

If the COPS Improvement Act of 2007 passes into law, an additional \$11,159,925 will likely flow into law enforcement agencies for hiring additional officers in the 5th Congressional District of Minnesota in the next 6 years. Furthermore, an additional \$4,110,303 in technology grants will likely flow to the 5th District and 3 more school resource officers will likely be put on the beat.

Little wonder this legislation has been endorsed by the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the National Sheriffs Association, the Fraternal Order of Police, the National Association of Police Organizations, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, and the National League of Cities.

COPS has been one of the most cost-effective law enforcement programs in our nation's history resulting in dramatic declines in both crime and violent crime rates.

It is good common sense that the new Democratic Congress has sought to restore funding to this successful program. It is good for the 5th Congressional District of Minnesota; good for the state of Minnesota; and good for America.

I am proud to have voted to make our streets safer by supporting the COPS Improvement Act of 2007.

HONORING MR. AND MRS. JOSEPH AND SANDRA MORROW FOR THEIR SERVICE AND DEDICATION TO THE NORTHWEST INDIANA COMMUNITY

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great respect and sincerity that I take this time to honor Mr. and Mrs. Joseph and Sandra Morrow of Schererville, Indiana. On Wednesday, May 23, 2007, Joe and Sandy will be honored by the Calumet Council, Boy Scouts of America for their many years of service and many contributions to their community. The Calumet Council will be honoring Joe and Sandra at the 2007 Distinguished Citizens Dinner, which will be held at the Center for Visual and Performing Arts in Munster, Indiana.

Joseph Morrow, originally from Huntington, Indiana, has always proven himself to be a dedicated member of the Northwest Indiana community. From a very young age, Joe realized the need for community participation and joined the Boy Scouts, where he would eventually attain the rank of Life Scout. After graduating from Huntington High School in 1949, Joe continued his commitment to his community and country as he enlisted and served in the United States Air Force from 1950–1954. From there, Joe went on to further his education and decided to pursue a career in the legal profession. Upon graduating from law school in 1958, Joe entered the practice of law. From there, the law firm of Schroer, Eichhorn, and Morrow emerged, where Joe remained until 1979. At that time, Joe left the firm and was named Chairman of Mercantile National Bank of Indiana, First National Bank of Illinois, and Home State Bank of Crystal Lake, Illinois, as well as President of the Lake Commercial Group.

Throughout the years, Joe has been a constant fixture in his community. He serves or has served in various capacities on the boards for many organizations, including: Indiana Bond Bank, Hoosier Boys Town, Northern Indiana Arts Association, Trade Winds Rehabilitation Center, Calumet Council—Boy Scouts of America, Indiana University Northwest-Chancellor's Advisory Board, Indiana University-Purdue University Calumet Region Campus Advisory Board, Purdue University Calumet-Chancellor's Council, Northwest Indiana Urban League, Gary Accord, Campaign America, Hammond Bar Association, Community Foundation of Northwest Indiana, Munster Medical Research Foundation, Indiana Univer-

sity Foundation, Indiana University Varsity Club, First National Bank of Illinois, Home State Bank, and the Audubon Country Club Foundation.

Sandra (Murray) Morrow, a native of Hammond, Indiana, has always shared the same compassion and willingness to serve her community. As a child, Sandy was always involved in community-oriented activities, such as the Brownies and Girl Scouts, and she attended Camp Paxton for summer camp. Upon her graduation from Hammond High School, Sandy went on to Indiana University, where she earned her Bachelor of Science degree in speech and hearing therapy. In 1956, she and Joe were married, and she continued to teach, traveling between Indianapolis, Bloomington, and Hammond.

Sandy's lifelong commitment to her community is an inspiring testament to her character. Sandy, like her husband, has served in many capacities with many organizations in the Northwest Indiana community, including: President of the Service League of Hammond, the Women's Board of the Bethany Home for Girls, the Women's Board of Hoosier Boys' Town, and she served on the boards for the Northwest Indiana Symphony, Beta Gamma Upsilon Sorority, Audubon Country Club, and the South Shore Arts Board.

While they remain truly committed to the Northwest Indiana community, Joe and Sandy's greatest enjoyment is the time spent with their beautiful family. The couple has one son, Chris, and one daughter, Gale Morrow Crabtree, as well as four adoring grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, at this time, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating Mr. and Mrs. Joseph and Sandra Morrow as they are honored for their service and dedication to the Northwest Indiana community. Their years of service have touched and improved the lives of countless individuals. Their unselfish and lifelong dedication is worthy of the highest commendation, and I am proud to represent them in Congress.

IN HONOR OF THE OPENING OF THE KAPLEN FAMILY SENIOR RESIDENCE IN RIVER VALE, NEW JERSEY

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the opening of the latest addition to the Bergen County Jewish Home Family, the Kaplen Family Senior Residence in River Vale, New Jersey. The local Jewish community has worked hard to plan and prepare for this home for more than a decade, and its doors are being opened to great exuberance.

Assisted living homes have become a very popular option for senior living. More and more families are working to care for young children and aging parents simultaneously. Assisted living facilities offer a loving and supportive environment for seniors. Families can rest easy that their parents are being cared for in a homestyle environment. And, seniors can have the independence they desire, knowing

all the while they have access to quality medical and life services that they may need.

What sets this assisted living home apart from others is that it is the first to offer a kosher environment. I commend Bill and Maggie Kaplen and the Kaplen Foundation for taking the initiative to meet this community need and to make this dream a reality.

I've worked for years with the Jewish Home community in Bergen County. With each visit to the Jewish Home in Rockleigh, I have encountered friendly, thoughtful staff and happy, content residents. I am certain that this newest facility will offer the same caring environment and neighborly feel.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF DAVID HEARN

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of one of my constituents, David Hearn, who will retire this month after almost 46 years as the organist for St. Paul's Lutheran Church here in the District of Columbia.

For more than four decades, Mr. Hearn has graced the congregation of St. Paul's and this city with classical and religious music including hymns, spirituals, and music from other lands.

Mr. Hearn's love of church music was influenced early by his mother, a singer and choir director, as well as his father who had a fine tenor voice. He earned a music degree from Ashland University in Ohio and a graduate degree from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland. He also completed summer courses at Oberlin College and Baldwin Wallace Conservatory in Ohio.

After a stint in the Army, Mr. Hearn came to the Washington area when offered a teaching contract in the Montgomery County school system. While there, he taught in all grades and eventually became Choral Director and Head of the Music Department at Wheaton High School. Under his direction, the choir performed in many local venues, including St. Paul's. They also traveled widely and were honored to sing a Sunday morning service at Old North Church in Boston during the Bicentennial year celebrations. The Madrigal Singers also sang in Montreal, Boston, and Washington Cathedral.

When Mr. Hearn became Music Director at St. Paul's on a snowy Sunday morning many years ago, he played a small Hammond organ in the chancel of the church. As the church grew and prospered, Mr. Hearn led the effort by the church to acquire the impressive Shantz pipe organ that today attracts prominent organists from around the country for recitals.

In addition to directing the St. Paul's choir and participating in services for decades, Mr. Hearn has hosted innumerable choirs and solo artists at St. Paul's for performances that have touched the lives of countless District residents. He has placed a special emphasis on developing the talents of gifted young singers and musicians and providing them with an opportunity to perform for appreciative audiences.

Mr. Hearn has spent decades enriching the cultural and religious life of District residents.

I am pleased to join the congregation of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in recognizing Mr. Hearn's service to his church and contributions to our community as he begins a well deserved retirement.

INTRODUCING THE MEDIKIDS HEALTH INSURANCE ACT OF 2007

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to introduce the MediKids Health Insurance Act of 2007, legislation to provide universal health coverage to our Nation's children.

In February, I was appalled when the Washington Post reported that 12-year-old Deamonte Driver passed away because his mother could not afford a basic dental procedure. An untreated infection in Deamonte's molar had spread to his brain. By the time he was brought to an emergency room, no amount of money could save him.

Deamonte Driver did not have to die. He would be still alive today if his mother had been insured, if more dentists accepted Medicaid, or if his family had not lost their Medicaid coverage.

This tragic story speaks to the shortcomings of our fragmented health care system. Millions of children are covered by their parents' health insurance plans. Medicaid and SCHIP provide care to millions of kids in families that meet their eligibility standards. Unfortunately, both programs have unnecessarily complex enrollment and review processes. Nearly 9 million children slip through the cracks of this incomplete system and go without health insurance each year.

Enough is enough. The wealthiest nation in the world can and should guarantee quality health care to all of our children. With insurance costs skyrocketing and employers dropping care, an overwhelming majority of Americans agrees. According to a February 2007 New York Times/CBS News poll, 84 percent favor expanding public programs to cover all uninsured children. If that's not a mandate for Congressional action, I don't know what is.

Rather than reinvent the wheel to provide care to our children, we should build on what works in our health care system. When Congress created Medicare more than 40 years ago, our Nation's seniors were more likely to be living in poverty than any other age group. Most senior citizens were unable to afford needed medical services and unable to find health insurance in the private market even if they could afford it. Today, as a result of Medicare's success, seniors are much less likely to be shackled by the bonds of poverty or to go without needed health care.

Now it is our Nation's children who are most likely to be poor. Kids in America are nearly twice as vulnerable to poverty as adults. This travesty is not only morally reprehensible; it also has grave consequences for the future of our country. Our future rests on our ability to provide our children with the basic conditions to thrive and become healthy, educated, and productive adults.

Poor children are often malnourished and have difficulty succeeding in school. Untreated

illnesses only worsen their chance for success. Providing these children with guaranteed health care would help realize their potential as individuals and our potential as a Nation.

The MediKids Health Insurance Act would create a new Federal health insurance program for children called MediKids. Modeled after Medicare, MediKids would provide comprehensive benefits appropriate to children, simplified cost sharing, prescription drug coverage and mental health parity.

Every child in America would be automatically enrolled in MediKids at birth and maintain that eligibility until age 23. Parents would retain the choice to enroll their kids in private plans or government programs such as Medicaid or SCHIP. However, if a lapse in other insurance coverage occurs, MediKids automatically fills in the gap.

MediKids doesn't have complicated enrollment and eligibility hoops. Instead, it assures that families will always have access to affordable health insurance for their children.

I can think of no better use of Congress' time—or our Nation's money—than to enact MediKids and provide health insurance to every child. Providing a simple, stable, and flexible health insurance option will afford millions of parents the peace of mind of knowing that their children will be cared for when they are sick. Our Nation's priorities should be centered on creating a bright future for our children and MediKids helps to achieve this goal.

I look forward to working with my colleagues and the many endorsing organizations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Children's Defense Fund to enact the MediKids Health Insurance Act.

Below is a summary of MediKids that provides additional details.

MEDIKIDS HEALTH INSURANCE ACT OF 2007 BILL SUMMARY

The MediKids Health Insurance Act provides health insurance for all children in the United States regardless of family income level by 2014. The program is modeled after Medicare, but the benefits are improved and targeted toward children.

MediKids is the ultimate safety net, with maximum simplicity, stability, and flexibility for families. Parents may choose to enroll their children in private plans or government programs such as Medicaid or SCHIP. However, if a lapse in other insurance coverage occurs, MediKids automatically picks up the children's health insurance. MediKids follows children across State lines when families move, and fills the gaps when families climbing out of poverty become ineligible for means-tested programs.

ENROLLMENT AND ELIGIBILITY

Every child born after December 31, 2008 is automatically enrolled in MediKids. Older children are enrolled over a 5-year phase-in as described below. Children who immigrate to the U.S. are enrolled when they receive their immigration cards. Materials describing the program's benefits, along with a MediKids insurance card, are issued to the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of each child. Once enrolled, children remain enrolled in MediKids until they reach the age of 23. There are no re-determination hoops to jump through because MediKids is not means tested.

BENEFITS

The benefit package is based on the Medicare and the Medicaid Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) benefits for children, with simplified cost sharing mechanisms and com-

prehensive prescription drug coverage. The benefits will be reviewed annually and updated by the Secretary of Health and Human Services to reflect age-appropriate benefits as needed with input from the pediatric community.

PREMIUMS, DEDUCTIBLES, AND COPAYS

MediKids assures that families will always have access to affordable health insurance for their children. Families below 150 percent of poverty pay no premiums or cost sharing. Families between 150 percent and 300 percent of poverty pay reduced premiums and cost sharing. Parents above 300 percent of poverty are responsible for a small premium equal to one-fourth of the average annual cost per child. Premiums are collected at the time of income tax filing. Premiums are not assessed during periods of equivalent alternative coverage. Families will never pay more than 5 percent of their adjusted gross income (AGI) for premiums.

Cost sharing is similar to the largest plans available to Members of Congress. There is no cost sharing for preventive and well childcare for any children. A refundable tax credit is provided for cost sharing above 5 percent of AGI.

FINANCING

Initial funding to be determined by Congress. In future years, the Secretary of the Treasury would develop a package of progressive, gradual tax changes to fund the program, as the numbers of enrollees grows.

STATES

Medicaid and S-CHIP are not altered by MediKids. States can choose to maintain these programs. To the extent that the States save money from the enrollment of children into MediKids, States are required to maintain current funding levels in other programs and services directed toward the Medicaid population. This can include expanding eligibility or offering additional services. For example, States could expand eligibility for parents and single individuals, increase payment rates to providers, or enhance quality initiatives in nursing homes.

PHASE-IN

MediKids is phased-in over a 5-year period according to the following schedule: Year 1 = the child has not attained age 6; Year 2 = the child has not attained age 11; Year 3 = the child has not attained age 16; Year 4 = the child has not attained age 21; Year 5 = the child has not attained age 23.

SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

American Academy of Family Physicians; American Academy of Pediatrics; American Medical Student Association; Children's Defense Fund; Consumers Union; Families USA; March of Dimes; National Association of Children's Hospitals; National Association of Community Health Centers; National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems; National Health Law Program; and NETWORK: A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I was absent from the Chamber during the early morning hours of Friday, May 11, 2007, and was therefore unable to record my vote on three postponed votes that were taken in the Committee of the Whole House on the State

of the Union. Had I been present for those votes on amendments to H.R. 2082, the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008, I would have voted as follows: "no" on rollcall No. 337; "no" on rollcall No. 338; and "yea" on rollcall No. 339.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1585) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2008, and for other purposes:

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of my amendment to H.R. 1585, the Fiscal Year 2008 National Defense Authorization Act. My amendment represents a crucial first step in enhancing and expanding critical family support and mental health services for our National Guard and Reserve troops and their families.

I commend Chairman SKELTON and the Armed Services Committee for their work on this bill. I'm glad the committee has recognized the great contributions of our National Guard and Reserve soldiers, and has recognized that readjusting to civilian life can be especially challenging for members of the reserve component. I believe that the establishment of the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program in the bill is a good first step in enhancing family support services for these soldiers, but I believe that more needs to be done for the families of National Guard and Reserve troops, who have too often and for too long been forgotten and left behind.

Members of the National Guard and Reserve are serving our country more than ever in the world's most dangerous places, including Iraq and Afghanistan, and many of them are facing multiple and extended deployments, causing considerable hardships for them and for their families. To cite just one example, in January 2007, members of the Iowa National Guard's 1-133rd Infantry Battalion learned that their tour of duty in Iraq would be extended from April of this year until August.

My amendment, which requires the Secretary of Defense to conduct a study into establishing a pilot program for family-to-family support for members of the National Guard and Reserve, and conduct a study on improving support services for the children of members of the National Guard and Reserve who are undergoing deployment, will help ensure that our reserve component troops and their families receive all of the family support and mental health services they need as they continue to serve our country.

My amendment is consistent with the goals of the Armed Services Committee to enhance support services for our National Guard and Reserve troops and their families, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

HONORING JAMES C. HAGUE, JR.

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the life-long accomplishments of a Coloradan who has served as a role model for achievement and made a substantial impact on our State, Mr. James C. Hague, Jr. On Saturday, February 25, 2007, a group of family and friends met to celebrate the 98th birthday of this truly wonderful and special person.

Jim was born on February 24, 1909 in Plainview, Texas and moved to Dallas, Texas in 1912. After working in the oil refining industry as a helper in 1927, he became a chemist. During the Hoover Administration he worked for the government and was initiated into Pipefitters Local 195 in Beaumont, Texas on May 31, 1937.

In 1939, Jim married his wife Ethel, a union which lasted for 58 years. He has two stepsons, 2 grandsons and 1 granddaughter. He and Ethel moved to Denver in October 1951 at which time Jim transferred his union card to Pipefitters Local 208, a membership still active today. Jim worked at the Rocky Flats Weapons Plant as a pipefitter in the initial construction of the facility.

Jim has always been active in the civic arena. He became a member of the Westminster City Charter Convention in 1957 and, as a result of his participation, Westminster established a City Manager/Home Rule government. Jim assisted in writing the Charter for Westminster which was approved by the voters in 1958. Jim was also instrumental in establishing the Central Colorado Library District for Arapahoe, Adams, Boulder, Denver, Clear Creek, Gilpin and Jefferson Counties. He remained a member of the Library District for 14 years and was Chairman for 12 years.

Jim is an active member of the Adams County Democratic Party; he has walked many miles in precincts and made many phone calls for candidates and was even featured in several commercials for former Senator Tim Wirth. Jim is well known by Democrats throughout the State of Colorado.

Jim is a truly interesting and fascinating person. He has tales to tell of yesterdays and always makes a contribution to today. Our future is much brighter for having Jim Hague in our lives. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing him the very best and a long healthy life with much happiness.

AFRICA'S WATER CRISIS

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, yesterday the House Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health held a briefing and hearing on the important issue of Africa's water crisis. We tend to take for granted this basic necessity for human existence, and yet we are told by the United Nations Development Programme that over 1.1 billion people in developing countries do not have adequate access

to safe water. Access to water is closely correlated to basic sanitation, and there too the world is facing a crisis. Some 2.6 billion people live without this second essential aspect of good health.

In its Human Development Report for 2006, the UNDP presents a heavy indictment against the international community, noting that every year 1.8 million children die from causes related to unclean water and poor sanitation. This is equivalent to 4,900 deaths every day, and diarrheal disease is the second highest cause of death in the world for children under 5. This occurs despite the fact that we now have oral rehydration therapy. These numbers dwarf the number of deaths resulting from violent conflict, and yet the UNDP points out that water and sanitation are rarely highlighted as an international concern.

In sub-Saharan Africa—the focus of the hearing—over 300 million people lack access to safe water, and some 460 million do not have access to proper sanitation. These overwhelming numbers hide the even deeper tragedy that it is the poor, both poor individuals and poor countries, who carry the greatest burden. Sub-Saharan Africa loses about 5 percent of its GDP, or about \$28.4 billion each year, to the water and sanitation deficit. This figure exceeds the total amount of aid and debt relief provided to the region in 2003. And most of this loss is suffered by those households that are below the poverty line, those who can least afford to pay the cost. The lack of water also unduly affects women and girls, who in many societies have the responsibility of collecting and transporting water, which can occupy their energy and time for several hours each day.

Beyond the apparent costs in human suffering and loss of life, there are broader social and economic costs as well. Improper water management impacts agricultural and industrial development, economic growth, and the preservation of land, coastal and marine ecosystems. Equitable access to sufficient quantities of safe water is necessary for a secure, peaceful society, and threats to such access can become a source of conflict and even violence.

It is worthwhile to note that, according to the UNDP, the scarcity of water worldwide is not the result of physical availability. The Human Development Report states that household water requirements represent a very small fraction of water use, often less than 5 percent of the total. Instead the UNDP asserts that the source of the problem lies in power, poverty and inequality. Households in high-income urban areas of Asia, Latin America and Sub-Saharan Africa have access to several hundred liters of water each day through public utilities, while slum dwellers and poor households in the rural areas of those same countries have access to far less than the 20 liters a day per person required to meet the most basic human needs. The same analysis is said to apply to the areas of agriculture and industry. Income levels and access to water and sanitation systems are key elements. UNDP explicitly rejects the notion that the global water shortage is due to population increases.

Fortunately, the United States Government is acting to provide more safe water and proper sanitation to the poor of the world. Thanks to the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor

Act of 2005, authored by our good friend Congressman EARL BLUMENAUER who we welcomed as a witness at the hearing, the provision of affordable and equitable access to safe water and sanitation in developing countries is a legislative component of our country's foreign assistance programs.

I have learned that the lack of access can be addressed by relatively simple means by an amazingly few but deeply committed people. I learned this first-hand when I was in Uganda last year and met Robert Wright from Living Waters International. I often emphasize the importance of faith-based organizations in meeting the global health needs of the world, and Living Waters is a Christian ministry that implements water development through training, equipping and consulting. Robert was living a comfortable life in my home state of New Jersey when he decided to move himself and his family to the remote regions of Uganda to assist the poor. He went to a school operated by Living Waters to learn how to drill a well to provide water for the hospital he was building. Although he was suffering from a bout of malaria, he drove several hours to Kampala to inform our delegation of the work of Living Waters and to press the need for water for the peoples of Africa. Therefore, I was particularly pleased to welcome Mr. Malcolm Morris, the chairman of Millennium Water Alliance, which represents a number of partners including Living Water International, who informed the Subcommittee of the work being done by faith-based organizations on this issue.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MR. FRANKIE CRUZ, MS. JADE CRUZ, AND MR. CHRISTOPHER CRUZ

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to SFC (Ret.) Frankie Salas Cruz for his service to his community. I commend the United States Army on Fort Hood for dedicating a Family Readiness building in honor of Sergeant Frankie Cruz. Sergeant Cruz and his 2 children, Jade Christine, and Christopher Frankie, tragically passed away on February 14, 2007 after a terrible car accident.

Sergeant Cruz was born on September 20, 1958 in Tamuning, Guam, the loving son of Juan Camacho and Luisa Borja Cruz. Sergeant Cruz was dedicated to public service from his earliest years. Many fondly remember his service as a Scoutmaster for Troop 200 and to the First Baptist Church of Lampasas, Texas. After graduating from Guam Vocational-Technical High School, he completed his Associates Degree from the University of Maryland in 1984.

During college, Sergeant Cruz, began his distinguished service to the Nation. He completed 3 years of Reserve Officer Training Corps, ROTC, leadership training then enlisted in the U.S. Army. He retired from the Army after 22 years of honorable and faithful service to our Nation. Most notably, Sergeant Cruz served our Nation honorably during the First Gulf War in 1991 and, most recently, in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

It is only appropriate that the Army name this facility after Sergeant Cruz to honor his 22 years of dedicated service. Employees and friends throughout his career note Sergeant Cruz's "can do" attitude with every project or task he was assigned. In fact, at the time of his passing, Sergeant Cruz had embarked as team lead for a \$39 million base building rehabilitation project. The respect and admiration everyone had for Sergeant Cruz will be eternally memorialized at this building on Fort Hood.

Sergeant Cruz's daughter Jade, and son Christopher, will also be remembered fondly. Jade was born on April 12, 1988 in Fort Eustis, Virginia. Her beauty, energy and vitality were just some of the attributes that made her an accomplished athlete and cheerleader. Beyond her athletic prowess, Jade took her academics seriously and was a student at Central Texas College at the time of her passing.

Christopher was born on September 7, 1989 in Fort Eustis, Virginia. Christopher will be remembered as an accomplished scholar and member of the Junior National Honor Society. Like many other in his generation, Christopher volunteered many of his hours toward various goodwill projects. Also, much like his father, he was a highly decorated Boy Scout earning the highest rank of Eagle Scout. Christopher's talents also transcended into music. He was the drum major in the Lampasas Marching Band and played the saxophone in the high school jazz band.

The tremendous accomplishments of Jade and Christopher are reflective of their father's love, care and passion for his children. Learning of these accomplishments makes their passing even more difficult to bear. I take solace in that the memory of their love, passion and hard work will always be on display for the Fort Hood community.

I join the people of Guam and the Fort Hood community in mourning the passing of Sergeant Frankie Cruz and his children, Jade and Christopher. I offer my condolences to their wife and mother, Mrs. Linda Cruz, Sergeant Cruz's other sons and their extended family. I thank Sergeant Cruz for his admirable service to our Nation in times of great difficulty and to the support his children provided. The Cruz family can all be proud of their family's achievements and strength.

CELEBRATING 100TH BIRTHDAY OF MRS. LILLIAN BIJOU (THORTON) REVORD

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a constituent who has led a remarkable life. On Sunday, Mrs. Revord's family and friends will come together to celebrate and observe her 100th birthday, celebrating the rich life of Mrs. Lillian Bijou (Thorton) Revord.

Over the course of her life, Mrs. Revord has truly seen the history of northern Michigan unfold before her, while she herself led a life rich in experience. As a child, Mrs. Revord attended the Methodist Church in Morristown, Michigan. The church has now been removed as an historical site to Grayling, Michigan, but the church gave her a strong anchor of faith to guide her.

In the spring of 1918, Mrs. Revord first moved north to Michigan's Upper Peninsula, U.P., specifically, Grand Island in Alger County. While young Lillian was just 12 years old on Grand Island, her father worked as a teamster for a logging company and her mother did the camp's laundry and cooking. In the fall of 1918, Lillian and her family moved to the mainland so that she and her sisters could attend school.

On the mainland, in Munising, Michigan, a few years later, Lillian met Orville Revord. As she tells it, Lillian and her best friend, Leta, were walking down the Munising City Dock. Some young men were nearby and one of them took note of Lillian's pigtails by commenting, "Well, if this one isn't a cute bunch of 'Onion Tops!'" This teasing remark was the first interaction between the two, who started dating when Lillian was 15.

In 1924, Orville and Lillian eloped and were married in Rapid River, Michigan. Lillian was 17 and Orville was 20. Lillian's friend, Leta and Lillian's cousin James served as witnesses. There were no wedding showers or receptions, Lillian did not have a special wedding dress (just a satin dress she had made for herself for the 4th of July) and the couple's wedding gifts were a pair of pillow cases from Leta and a week's board and room from Lillian's sister, Zeph. As Lillian recalls, the Reverend Kitchen performed the ceremony. Before the ceremony, the Reverend looked up over his spectacles to say to the young couple, "Do you two kids know what you are doing?" Nonetheless, Orville and Lillian were married. Apparently the two did "know what they were doing," as their marriage would ultimately produce five children and last 66 years. As Lillian says, "We had nothing to start a long married career with, but we had our love and commitment and our marriage endured for better or for worse and both categories got a good workout!"

One of the challenges Orville and Lillian would face during the course of their marriage was the Great Depression, which hit five years after they were married. Orville's job on the railroad was whittled down to two days a week and the young couple, already working to raise two children, was surviving on \$11.52 every two weeks. Their two sons, Orville Jr. and Billy, would sit on the sidewalk waiting for their father to come home from work swinging his lunch bucket, which held a piece of a sandwich that Orville Sr. had saved from lunchtime for the two brothers to share. Despite these challenges, the Revord family would persevere and persist during these dark times, a testament to the love and commitment between Orville and Lillian and of their faith.

Throughout her entire life, Lillian has remained a passionate lover of art and an active painter. She was the first Munising artist to be hired by the Munising Woodenware and was the last to be laid off, following the financial demise of her employer. Lillian's artwork has been cherished by locals and visitors to Munising, alike. Today, one can occasionally stumble upon one of her painted antique woodenwares on the Internet, for a considerable price. Lillian also worked for some time as a telephone operator for the Munising Telephone Company, until electronic switching was innovated.

While Lillian has remained active throughout her life pursuing a range of pursuits and challenges, early in life, she did not have the benefit of much formal education. Nonetheless, at the age of fifty, she returned to High School to take courses in typing and drivers' education, another testament to her strength.

Madam Speaker, on Sunday, the Munising community, Mrs. Revord's friends and her family will gather in the basement of the local Methodist Church, a fitting location for a woman who has made faith such a cornerstone of her life. Together, they will congratulate her on her many accomplishments over her many years. As Mrs. Revord's 100th birthday is celebrated, I would ask that you join me in congratulating her and in wishing Mrs. Lillian Revord, her children, Orville, Jr., Raoul, and Joanne and her many grandchildren all the best.

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2007

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a piece of legislation to enhance two, critical Small Business Administration, SBA, Entrepreneurial Development programs, Small Business Development Centers, SBDCs, and the Service Corps for Retired Executives, SCORE.

Serving as the Representative in a District that has been historically driven economically by vibrant local, small businesses, I greatly appreciate and support the entrepreneurial development assistance that the SBA provides.

We know that entrepreneurial development assistance programs work. Businesses who receive SBA entrepreneurial assistance are twice as likely to succeed. In addition, every Federal dollar spent on entrepreneurial development generates seven dollars in increased tax revenue.

In the past three years, due to changes in our ever-changing globalizing economy, my District has lost 607 small businesses, and 1 out of 5 manufacturing establishments. This is a trend that I am committed to reversing through fostering entrepreneurial development and creating the right set of conditions to help businesses flourish, stay and be attracted to in my District, and I believe that supporting effective small business entrepreneurial development programs is a key part of that strategy.

In 1980, Congress established the SBDC program to foster economic development by providing management, technical and research assistance to current and prospective small businesses. As you know, SBDCs provide services which include, but are not limited to, assisting small businesses with financial, marketing, production, organization, engineering and technical problems and feasibility studies.

SBDCs serve Americans with the desire to start their own venture, but lack the technical expertise associated with starting and running a successful business, and in the past few decades, have provided assistance to millions of entrepreneurs across the United States.

The SBDC program also represents the effective and efficient use of allocated Federal

monies through public/private collaboration to provide necessary technical and mentoring assistance. To that end, SBDCs are funded by matching monies by state legislatures, foundations, State and local chambers of commerce, public and private universities, vocational and technical schools, and community colleges. In fact, sponsors' contributions have been increasingly exceeding the minimum 50 percent matching share, signifying greater participation among such groups and institutions.

This is why I feel especially fortunate to have several Small Business Development Sub-Centers located at local universities, such as Widener University, Kutztown University, and the University of Pennsylvania, Wharton, which provides critical business resources and technical assistance to small businesses in and around my District.

I would like to stress that the core SBDC program has been extremely effective, but there are certain operational improvements that can be implemented to increase flexibility of Small Business Development Centers to better support and serve our local small businesses and our aspiring entrepreneurs.

To that end, changes proposed in this legislation will ensure the quality of grant recipients to host SBDCs; help SBDCs maintain their autonomy from undue SBA interference; protect the confidentiality of SBDC clients; ensure that taxpayer dollars are being spent as efficiently as possible by not using SBDC funds except for the sole purpose of business development; and allowing exemptions to the current cap on non-matching portability grants in the event of Federally-designated natural or human-caused disasters.

In addition to these operation changes, it is important to strengthen the SBDC core program, which successfully navigates entrepreneurs in managing their business, by establishing specific grant programs that will allow SBDCs to tailor their services to meet the needs of particular business constituencies.

For instance, the Capital Access Initiative would establish grants to assist entrepreneurs in processing loan applications and obtaining private equity. An Innovation and Competitiveness Initiative would establish grants to allow SBDCs to become "Technology Centers," to help market technologies and advanced projects to manufacturers. A Disaster Recovery Program would establish grants to allow SBDCs to assist and coordinate the Federal response for small business disaster victims.

The Older Entrepreneurial Assistance program will target older Americans interested in transitioning to become business owners, while the Small Business Sustainability Initiative will promote the development and implementation of energy efficient and clean energy improvements and technology. A National Regulatory Assistance Initiative will provide assistance to small businesses to comply with Federal regulatory requirements, and an Affordable Health Care Initiative, will help small business owners provide affordable health care insurance options to their employees.

As I also mentioned, a second program which this legislation will address is SCORE, which provides entrepreneurs with free counseling assistance by former executives. SCORE provides a valuable service to small businesses, and I believe it will be even stronger with a provision to actively recruit volunteer mentors who will greater reflect the so-

cial and economic diversity of those who utilize SBA services, such as women and under-represented minorities.

Again, thank you for allowing me to speak this morning about this important bill, which will greatly enhance the business development resources available to America's small business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs.

THAILAND DEMOCRACY ACT OF 2007

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, on September 19, 2006, the Thai military and police overthrew the elected government of Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra. At the time, the popularly-elected premier was in New York City for a meeting of the United Nations General Assembly.

General Boonyaratkalin, leader of the military coup, suspended the constitution and dissolved the Cabinet, both houses of Parliament, and the Constitutional Court.

The Department of State immediately issued a statement saying, "There's no justification for a military coup in Thailand or in anyplace else . . . we certainly are extremely disappointed by this action. It's a step backward for democracy in Thailand."

Following the military coup, the United States suspended \$24 million in bilateral assistance to the Thai government.

Now eight months after the military coup, despite promises by the military leaders to the contrary, Thailand still has not drafted a permanent constitution, held a referendum, or called for elections.

In addition, Thailand seized American patents in clear violation of international law.

On December 30, 2003, the United States Government designated Thailand as a major non-NATO ally. This status gives Thailand a range of benefits, preferred American lending, participation in military exercises and preferential bidding on Department of Defense contracts.

A military dictatorship that disposes an elected government and then seizes American intellectual property should not be considered a major non-NATO ally.

Therefore, today I am introducing the Thailand Democracy Act of 2007 to push Thailand's military government to hold democratic elections.

Under this legislation, the President is required to terminate Thailand's status as a major non-NATO ally until he can certify to the Congress that democracy has been restored to the Thai people. I urge my colleagues to condemn the continued military rule of Thailand and support this important legislation.

CONGRATULATING CLYDE TIDWELL ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, in this day and age, it is very unusual for a person to work in a company for 40 or 50 years.

For someone to work for the same company for 66 years is truly incredible.

One of my constituents, Clyde Tidwell, recently retired from the Alcoa Company, where he worked since May 16, 1941.

I want to congratulate him on his well-deserved retirement.

I also want to salute him for his contributions to our Country and its economy.

This Nation is a better place because of Clyde Tidwell, who I believe can accurately be called a great American.

I would like to include the following article about Mr. Tidwell that ran in the Knoxville News-Sentinel on May 16, 2007 and call it to the attention of my colleagues and the other readers of the RECORD.

[From the Knoxville News-Sentinel, May 16, 2007]

IT'S TIGER'S TURN: AFTER 66 YEARS AT ALCOA, TIDWELL'S JOB IS DONE
(By Michael Silence)

Clyde "Tiger" Tidwell today hangs up the hard hat after working 66 years at Alcoa Tennessee.

At 87, and with his son having retired three years ago, Tidwell figures it's time to put away the safety goggles and the earplugs.

When he began May 16, 1941, he made 55 cents an hour, and a meal cost 25 cents. Tidwell was 21.

He felt fortunate because the week he started, pay increased by 10 cents an hour.

"That was pretty good" for that time, the Blount County resident said Tuesday.

Tidwell is believed to be Alcoa Inc.'s longest active employee. The company is hosting a reception for him today.

While he describes himself as timid, Tidwell said he appreciates the gesture and he will have family and friends at the reception.

He took a break from work in 1944 to serve as a paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne in World War II.

The overhead crane operator and machinist attributes his longevity to a good job and working with good people.

"I enjoyed the work and the people," he said in an interview at Alcoa's North Plant.

Pittsburg-based Alcoa Inc.'s Blount County operation, which produces aluminum used for beverage cans, and its primary metals and materials management office in Knoxville employ about 1,850 workers.

Tidwell said the biggest change at Alcoa during his years with the company were the safety measures. When he started in 1941, the plant didn't have such things as safety belts and a sprinkler system, which it now does.

And, he added, there's one building in the factory now that if a gate is opened the mill shuts down.

Tidwell served in the Army several months in 1944. During that time his daughter, Judy Lynn Carter of Knoxville, was born while he was at sea headed to Europe. It was seven months before he learned of her birth.

Tidwell said during the 66 years he's worked for Alcoa there have been some "not too rosy" events. Two thirds of the people he started work with have died.

Tidwell himself has had two heart surgeries, but on Monday, he visited the doctor and got "a clean bill of health."

Now that he has some time on his hands, Tidwell said he might get back into some farming. He used to raise tobacco but has no crops now.

He never thought of retirement, but Alcoa came along with an attractive incentive plan, so he took it.

And he said it's probably time to retire. His son, Clyde Eugene Tidwell, retired from TVA three years ago.

As much as their health allows, Tidwell and his wife, Floy, want to do some traveling and spend some time at their boathouse on Fort Loudon Lake.

"We haven't loafed around a lot," he said of those years.

And he added, "Life has been good to me."

Looking back—Other events of 1941, the year Clyde "Tiger" Tidwell started working for Alcoa Inc.: Japanese attack Pearl Harbor; Cheerios introduced by General Mills as Cheerioats; Orson Welles' film Citizen Kane premieres; Joe DiMaggio's 56-game hitting streak; and Joan Baez and Vice President Dick Cheney were born.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1585) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2008, and for other purposes:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Chairman, yesterday, as part of the Defense Authorization bill, we voted on an amendment offered by Mr. DEFazio of Oregon that would, with limited exceptions, require the President to obtain congressional authorization before taking military

action against Iran. I want to make something crystal clear: I fully support the intent of the amendment. However, I opposed the DeFazio Amendment for three reasons.

First by singling out Iran, the amendment created a troubling implication that the President could take military action against other countries without congressional authorization. For example, there have been reports that the Bush Administration has considered military action against Syria. The DeFazio Amendment did not mention Syria. Does the omission of Syria, or any other country, give the President a green light to attack other nations without congressional authorization? Essentially, the DeFazio Amendment re-stated what I believe to be the powers of the Congress under the U.S. Constitution and statutory law. The Executive Branch must respect those powers. It establishes a bad precedent for the Congress to pass a DeFazio type amendment every time it is concerned the Executive Branch might take military action against a particular country in violation of the Constitution and statutory law. That would send the wrong message that Congress doesn't care whether the Executive abides by the Constitution unless the Congress passes a similar amendment in every instance.

Second, it is difficult to predict every possible contingency when formulating legislation regarding the use of military force. If, for example, the DeFazio Amendment became the law of the land, and American civilians were taken hostage in Iran, the President would be prohibited from ordering a military rescue operation unless the Congress first passed a resolution. Certainly, that was not the intent of Mr. DEFazio's amendment, but that is its effect.

Finally, the DeFazio Amendment does not address the problem that led to the bad decision to go to war in Iraq. Afterall, President Bush asked Congress to authorize the use of force against Iraq. The problem was that Congress mistakenly passed a resolution giving the President that authority.

In conclusion, while I support the spirit and intent of this amendment, I think it establishes an unwise precedent, fails to consider all the contingencies that might lead to the justifiable use of force, and fails to address the issue that led to the war in Iraq.